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Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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AMMAN, 6 — 12 MAY 1993, VOLUME 4, NUMBER 5, 350 fils

اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة



Weaving the colors of Jordan
People
page 8



Le Jourdain
Supplément en français du Star

French weekly page
page 7



Computer page
page 12

Whatever happened to the returnees?

A few are leaving Jordan, some enjoy the fruit of their labor in the Gulf, but the majority continue to suffer three years after the Gulf Crisis.

By Bilal Hijawi
Star Staff Writer

MUCH OF the media hype that had once targeted the hot topic of Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates' exodus back into Jordan before, during and after the Gulf War, has long been muted. While some 10 percent of the returnees, as they are called now, could secure a well-off standard of living, the remaining 90 percent faced the burden of picking up the fragments of their once envied style of life. But where are the returnees today? And have they finally blended into the social, economic and political mainstream of Jordanian life?

Of the estimated 350,000 returnees, only 5 percent were considered rich enough to maintain the same standard of living that they enjoyed back in the Gulf. Some had even welcomed the opportunity to pack up and return to Jordan. "Leaving Kuwait did not change me at all — it did not cut through my hopes for a better life, nor did it change my perceptions and principles about life," said Mr. Nizam Al Faruqi, partner at the Kuwait-based Mechanical, Electrical Co. and who also controls overseas business interests through his office in Amman.

But he is in the minority: Being financially independent he did not suffer the sudden uprooting from Kuwait. He said that should Kuwait allow him to return today — he would appreciate the offer, but he will turn it down absolutely. "Our dignity will be at stake. I will never go through this madness again."

Mr. Saad Hijawi, general director of Horizon Advertising agency in Amman, was vacationing in Jordan when Iraq invaded Kuwait. He acknowledged the fact that his investment in Jordan should have come earlier. "Today our advertising agency has struck good business here," he said that his field of operation in Amman is more promising today than it was when he first started it in November 1991. "I could draw on my background in professional promotion and advertising to help Jordan's market. I was appreciated here and that made me feel good and at home," Hijawi said.

He wouldn't go back to Kuwait even if he was asked to, he said. "More likely I would coordinate my Kuwait operation — which has not stopped — from here. I want my children to grow up in a much better and healthier environment and Jordan supplies that."

Another businessman, who a number of agencies to consumer products in Kuwait is Mr. Iyad Saymeh, who acts as

deputy general director at the Cooperative Society for the Gulf War Returnees in Amman. He expressed the same satisfaction as Mr. Hijawi of being in Jordan. "I would stay in Amman but I would capitalize on my long established contacts in Kuwait by trying to open up the market there for Jordanian products when the time comes."

He said that he did not regret the time spent there but he also wished that Jordan's embassy in Kuwait had played a greater role in educating expatriates about Jordan. "We did not get to feel that we belonged to Jordan except in terms of legal documentation and that involved a tangled bureaucratic procedure. So naturally, we didn't think but of Kuwait, and we forgot to secure ourselves a cushion should we fall out. And we did," Mr. Saymeh said.

Mr. Yahia El Uteibi, chairman of the Returnees Co-operative Society, who also owns and operates a restaurant near Hussein's Sports City, is content with what he has accomplished as a private person and a public servant. "We predicted the tidal wave that was to wash us off Kuwaiti shores — the idea of a society was incubated as war in the Gulf was progressing. But the incorporation of the Society in Jordan followed through in September 1991." The cooperative society had intended to develop a nonprofit hospital for the benefit of the returnees but couldn't for lack of resources. "We've settled for a medical primary unit, but the idea hasn't died," said Uteibi.

The cases that have been documented by the unit's "extremely active doctor" has shown that an alarming number of medical cases among the returnees have developed due to high blood pressure and heart disorders. "Most... have been motivated by psychological and traumatic sufferings."

Mr. Uteibi charged that instead of supporting it, most returnees are becoming a burden on the economy. The society he chairs keeps record of many returnee cases who have sold out all earthly belongings and are on welfare in Jordan.

Mr. Uteibi blamed the government for failing to take advantage of the human resources that suddenly poured into Jordan. He added that, while early calls by his Majesty King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan on Jordanians to get the repatriated human resource working for the country, very little has materialized on the ground.

"We've remain highly stereotyped. People still think of us as aristocratic and as indulging in materialistic lifestyles, while the returnees' misery index has climbed up fast," Uteibi said. He added that more than half of the foreign currencies repatriated by the returnees has been depleted while trying to set up business and settling down. "The returnees deserve another look — while many have succeeded, the majority is still in need of help and a good number have become impoverished," Uteibi said.

But capital and talent flight would add up to a significant loss — especially if many returnees begin to leave. "Jordanians cannot afford to continue to be indifferent. It is not only returnees that we need to lure into Jordan, but foreign investors as well," Uteibi added.

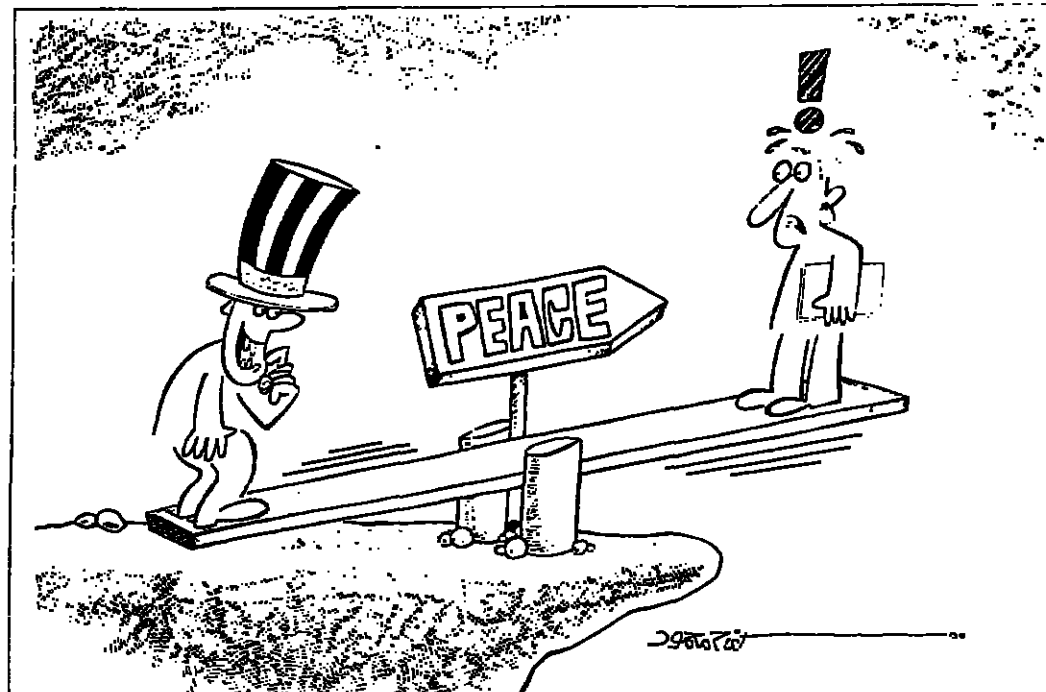
Iraq's decision to cancel bank note costs local speculators millions

AMMAN (Star) — Tens of Jordanian speculators were sadly counting their losses, running into hundreds of millions of dollars, as a result of Iraq's unexpected decision Tuesday to cancel a Swiss edition of the 25 Iraqi dinar bank note. To prevent smuggling of the note back into Iraq, Baghdad announced that it was closing its borders for six days. Iraqis were given until next week to replace the Swiss bank note after which the currency will become null.

The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) had warned speculators of the dangers associated with speculation against the Iraqi dinar. But many stayed in the market and took heavy losses. "I estimate that between 70 to 100 million Iraqi dinars of the 25 dinar Swiss version were circulating in Amman when the decision was announced," said Mr. Makram Al Alami, of Jawdat and Khalil Al Alami Currency Exchange Co.

The news brought the street exchange rate for the Iraqi dinar to a record low of 12 to 15 fils for notes printed inside Iraq. Al Alami added that Jordanians will most likely stop dealing in Iraqi dinars as a result of this latest measure. One reaction would be felt in Amman's Financial Market as people would again find the AFM a more secure place for their investments. Mr. Al Alami concluded that because most companies with business ties to Iraq used the non-Swiss 25 dinar denomination — the decision would not cause local industries a great loss.

Observers say Iraq's decision will cost Gulf speculators billions of dollars as most of them used the Swiss note.



Israeli-Arab negotiations continued into their second week on Wednesday with Palestinian and Israeli delegates expressing hope and optimism that the ninth round of the Middle East peace negotiations was finally moving into substantive issues. The Palestinians were reported to have asked the rest of the Arab delegations to extend the ninth round by another week. Head of the Palestinian team, Dr. Haider Abdel Shafi told Israeli Radio on Wednesday that the Israelis have expressed their readiness to transfer certain jurisdictions to the Palestinians, but no definite offers on land and the interim self government were made yet. He said he hoped that a letter of understanding will be agreed upon between the Palestinians and the Israelis before the end of the current round. But he added that the Israelis have failed to fulfil their promise to review a list containing the names of additional Palestinian deportees. No progress was reported from the Syrian, Jordanian and Lebanese sides.

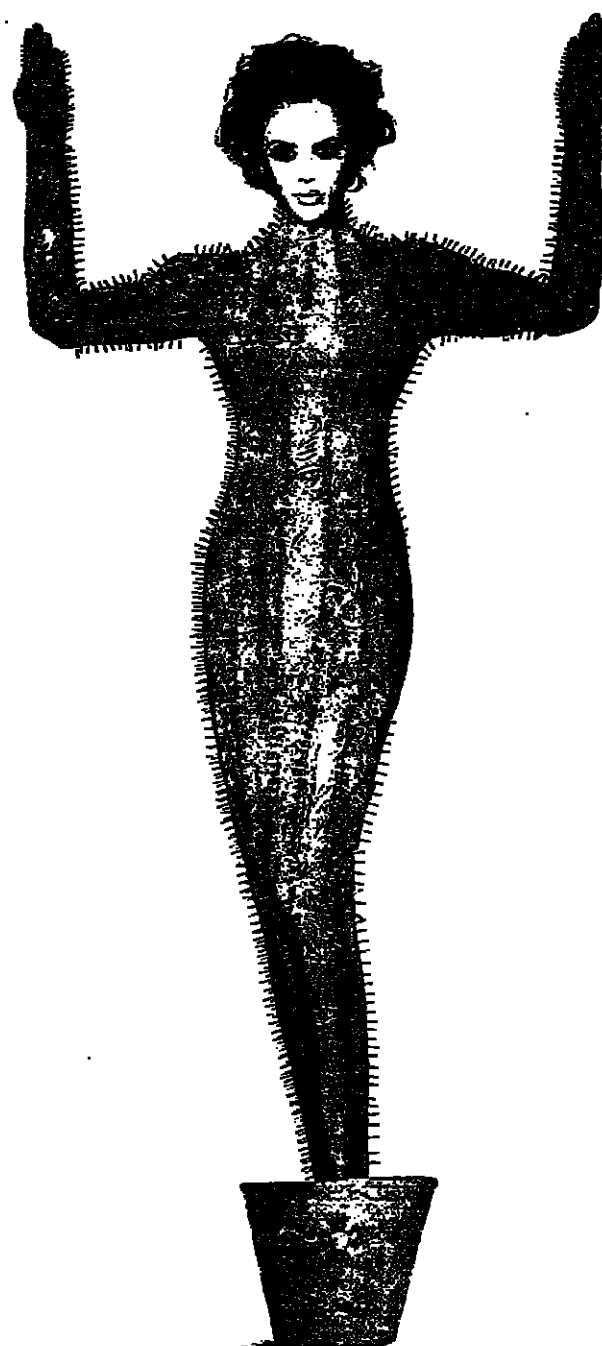
Kuwait confirms boycott end!

KUWAIT — "You report" as working to lift the secondary and tertiary Arab boycott on US companies that do business with Israel, according to a statement issued by the Kuwaiti Embassy in Washington, last week.

Press attaché Raed Rifa'i was responding to a US State Department letter released last Thursday by the World Jewish Congress (WJC), in which the director of the department's Office of Arab/Israeli Affairs stated that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have pledged to lift the secondary and tertiary aspects of the boycott from US firms.

Since the end of the Gulf War, Kuwait has pledged to join US efforts to end these aspects of the Arab economic boycott against Israel, and ceased maintaining lists of "suspect" US firms for almost a year.

"That is a different issue altogether," Rifa'i said.



PART OF THE ART



swatch

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The Italian Embassy in Jordan
and
the Italian Institute for External Commerce
invite all Jordanian specialised companies to attend the
"Technological Symposium on Medical Equipment"
which will be held on May 15th and 16th, 1993
at the Inter-Continental Hotel, Amman
starting 10:00 a.m.

The Italian companies coming from Italy will present themselves and their products.

For further information, please call the Second Secretary of the Italian Embassy in Amman, Dr. Raffaele de Benedictis (Ph. 638185, Fax 659730, P.O. Box 9800) or Dr. Hani H. Shaheen (MBF Representative Ph. and Fax 683028, P.O. Box 926775, Amman)



JORDAN

W E E K

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Dr Marwan Al Asmar

It's November for parliamentary election!

His Majesty King Hussein has said that November will probably be the month for the Parliamentary elections according to a TV interview with Reuters. The King said that the present electoral law is still under consideration.

Population issues discussed

The population of the Arab World is expected to increase by 45 million to 299 million by the year 2000, a three per cent increase and nearly double the world figure of 1.7 per cent according to the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Fund. The Fund fears that this dramatic rise, presently at 244 million, will likely lead to massive social problems.

Egypt will witness the greatest increase in population, from 58 to 69.7 million by the year 2000, followed by Sudan and Morocco, whose present population is 39.1 and 29.1 million respectively. Fifty per cent of the Arab population is under 15 years of age while in the industrial countries it is 22 per cent and in other Third World countries it is 38 per cent, according to the Fund.

Similarly, the number of workers in Arab countries will increase by 20 million from 67 to 87 million.

With these thoughts in mind Her Majesty Queen Noor opened a conference on population at the University of Jordan. Delivering a keynote address, the Queen stressed the need to control population growth in the light of Jordan's limited resources. She called on identifying new and realistic set of national development principles. The Queen said that three cumulative outcomes of the population explosion of the 1980s can be detected. One is the deterioration of the quality of life, the second is the increase in the number of needy and the third is the pressures on the society as a whole.

The Queen said that our na-

tional population policy should not be restricted to the traditional, but should aim at reaching a comprehensive understanding of human development that includes political participation and economic growth.

Elections frictions

Former Minister of Health, Mamdouh Al Abadi, will run for the coming Parliamentary elections. According to the weekly *Sheehan*, he will be backed by *Fateh*, the Palestinian nationalist movement.

Similarly, the previous head of Military Intelligence, Dhaif Allah Mansour Al Ziben, will also fight the coming election for the central region constituency, a tribal area. Also a number of journalists will also run for the elections.

These include Mahammad Dawoodia, the now Press Secretary in the Royal Court and Mahmud Al Kayed the Editor-in-Chief of *Al-Rai*. Other Journalists include columnists such as George Haddad and Abdallah Maais. According to Ad Dastour over a 1000 candidates will be fighting over the 80-seat Lower House.

Amongst these are very interesting personalities that will be running for the first time. Dr Ibrahim Zeid Al Kilani the famous gynecologist, the Senator Dr Ishaq Al Farhan and the lawyer Hani Al Dahala. There will also be two women candidates running, the famous Asmah Khader and the writer Tujan Feisal, an altogether

interesting variety. Amidst all this, the Arab Baath Party is taking the Minister of Interior, Jawdat Al Sbul, to the High Court to contest his order to give a licence to the Baath Social Party, which has a similar name, according to the same paper. The Baath Party is afraid that voters may be confused at the election and vote for the wrong party.

Two more political parties will be set up. One being a centrist Al Watan Party, which believes in the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, while the other party, yet to be named, is believed to be backed by one of the Palestinian organizations. Jordan's Green Party is also in the process of being established.

As part of the Washington peace negotiations, an American-Palestinian watch-dog committee on the building of Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories has been set-up. Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, Mr Al Tayeb Abd Al Rahim told Reuters that the purpose of the joint committee is to "exchange information concerning settlement activities," to make sure that Israel does not build new settlements and monitor any violation by the Israelis. Israel, also has for the first-time agreed to allow the Palestinian inhabitants of East Jerusalem to partake in elections to choose members of the Administrative Council that would be responsible for self-rule. Though their participation will be conditional on the fact that ballot boxes should be outside the legal administrative area of Jerusalem and that East Jerusalem may not elect a representative to the Administrative Council. Israel's concessions seem to know no bounds — it has also agreed to allow two Palestinian academics, the London-based Dr Ahmed Al Khalidi and the Paris-based Dr Kamil Mansour, to join the peace process as advisors to their team, as the head of the Israeli delegation Professor Rubinstein stated.

America watches our democracy

More parties join the race

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First fruits of the peace negotiations!

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End of boycott may be near

Three more companies have been added to the black list because of dealings with Israel, a decision taken during the Damascus meeting of the Arab League's Office for Boycott. The airline companies, a Czech, a Yugoslavian and a Bulgarian, were said to have helped in the building of settlements in the Occupied Territories and in the transportation of

US foreign assistance to Jordan is linked to democratization, the peace process and to sanctions enforcement, said the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Edward Djerejian, presenting foreign assistance requests to the Congressional House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East on 28 April.

Mr Djerejian said "Jordan has taken very significant steps towards democracy over the past four years. This is one of the least appreciated success stories in the Middle East. Thus, maintaining stability in Jordan is part of our overall support for democratization," a support that is needed "more than ever." Mr Djerejian maintained that "Our assistance also helps sustain Jordan's very positive role in the Arab-Israeli peace process and its commitment to guaranteeing the security of its border."

Because of this and coupled with the fact that "Jordan has a mixed economy" and "heavily dependent on regional trade" which sanctions enforcement has deeply affected and together with its "staggering debt", the Djerejian said that US "support is crucial. We expect to begin consultations soon on the release of \$50 million" for the 1992 financial year. The 1993 "funds remain frozen as we continue to monitor Jordan's performance on democratization, the peace process and enforcement."

Just before the last Israeli election, Likud hired Shlomo Nechama, a computer company owner, to prepare surveys of voter trends; he was paid \$250,000 and given the use of computerized lists of actual and potential Likud voters. Nechama now stands accused of transferring the lists to Meir Pilavsky, the Labor Party chief of security during the last election, according to *Inside Israel* newsletter.

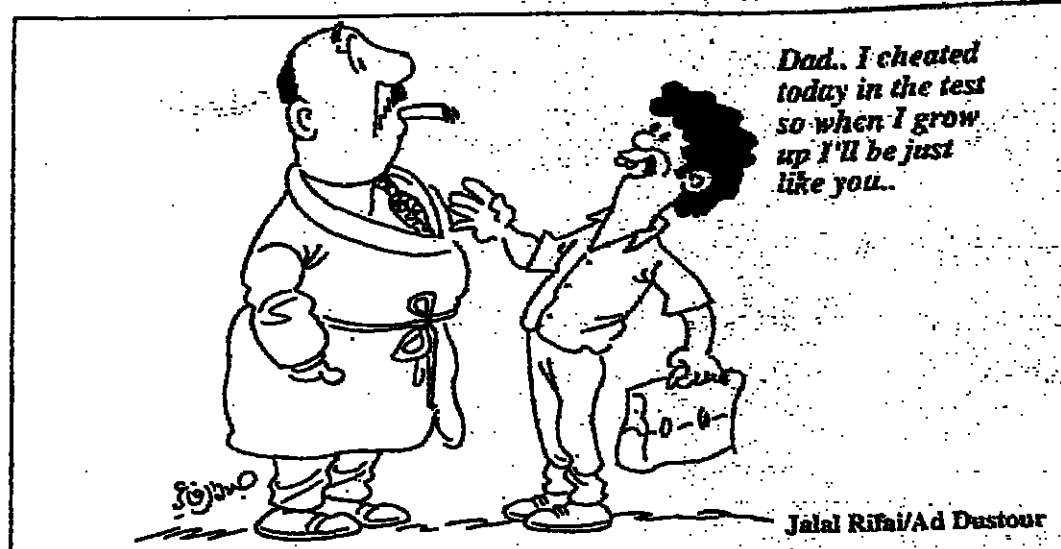
Bribes in Israeli politics

The lists were to be used for a number of reasons, one of them being to get likely Likud voters to the polls. On election day Likud workers noticed that these people had been canvassed earlier and began to suspect a major leak of party lists. Their suspicion led to a post-election investigation by Globe, a private security agency.

Globe photographed a courier returning the Likud lists on diskette to Nechama and managed somehow to intercept the courier's envelope before it reached its destination.

This was proof enough for Likud Knesset member Michael Eitan who demanded a Knesset investigation of the affair.

The primary answer that needs to be answered is, did Nechama volunteer to give the lists to Labor or was he persuaded with a bribe? Whatever



Jewish immigrants. Despite this, *The Jerusalem Post* has reported that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are lifting their ban on American companies who have trade relations with Israel. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia were viewed as economic "heavy weights" by the Clinton administration and their decision is seen as the beginning of the end for the Arab's non-trading links with Israel.

Israel which is clearly pleased has said that since 1948, the Arab boycott has cost her \$40 billion, \$20 billion from overseas investment she would have received and \$20 billion from exports to Arab states.

Violence inside Israeli Moledet

Moledet, the party that won its three-Knesset seats on a platform ticket that called for the expulsion of Palestinians, is now itself facing "violence" and internal dissension.

During its last party conference, member of the Knesset Yosef Bagdad claimed Moledet leader Rehavam Zeevi ran the party like a dictator and challenged him for the control of the movement.

Zeevi took Bagdad aside and threatened to murder him, warning him, "You don't know who you are dealing with. I'll tear the skin off your face."

A shaken Bagdad rushed to the third Moledet Knesset member Professor Shaul Gutman to relate the incident, who advised him to get legal advice and file a police complaint. After Zeevi publicly denied the incident, Gutman called him a pathological liar and a gangster.

Bagdad's fear may have been based on Zeevi's recent past. Before running for the Knesset in 1988 Zeevi had known ties with the underworld. His threatening style is tearing the party

apart, according to *Inside Israel*.

JEDCO and the EC organize seminar

Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centers Corp. (JEDCO) in cooperation with the Delegation of the European Community (EC) in Jordan organized a seminar on 4 May on "The Markets of the European Community: Opportunities for Jordanian Exporters".

The seminar is intended to provide information and practical detail for those involved in Jordan-EC trade, whether from the public or private sector. Given the current low level of Jordanian exports to the EC (JD19 million in 1992 compared with imports of JD 650 million) and the substantial opportunities that exist, it is important that Jordan seeks out such opportunities.

The EC is genuinely interested in balancing the trade balance with Jordan as economic stability is important for them to reach. The seminar provided details of the Jordan-EC Cooperation Agreement and its mutual benefits, certain technical aspects relating to exports to the EC and a presentation on the "New Europe", what it means to Jordanian exporters and to strategies for maximizing benefit.

The seminar introduced the European Community Investment Partner (ECIP) which is a facility through which the EC finances and facilitates the creation of joint ventures in the developing economies of Asia, Latin America and the Mediterranean. ECIP operates through a network of financial institutions. ECIP's main facilities offered are characterized as follows:

1. Identification of potential joint venture projects and partners.
2. Operations prior to launching a joint venture.
3. Financing of capital requirements.
4. Human resource development: training and management assistance.

The maximum total support per project is 1,000,000 ECUs.

For the Record

By Ahmad Shalabi

His Majesty King Hussein will leave for the United States next week on a private visit. Informed sources said that the King will meet with President Bill Clinton and senior officials during his stay.

Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities sources said that 12 new hotels were opened last year with a total number of rooms of 648 and 1267 beds. Classified hotels number 125 in Jordan with a total of 7135 rooms and 14,000 beds.

Electricity Authority sources said that work has finished on a number of projects to electrify 433 villages and population centers at a cost of JD 4 million.

The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) has decided to build a new dam in Wadi Shu'ub to store flood and treated water estimated at 5 million cubic meters. Tender documents will soon be announced for blueprints and technical studies for the JD 7 million project, which will be carried out within a 30 month period by the contractor.

Three non-deputy ministers are planning to run for the coming election. They are Minister of Health Dr Aref Bataineh, Minister of Supply Mohammad Saqqaf and Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Mr Ali Abu Raghieb. All deputy ministers are also planning to run for re-election.

Arab League General Secretary Dr Ismat Abdel Maguid will pay a visit to Jordan in June as part of a tour of Arab countries.

PLO Executive Committee is expected to call for an emergency meeting of the Central Council in Tunis in the coming two weeks to discuss latest developments in the peace process and the deteriorating situation in the Occupied Territories. The 98-member Central Council is the link between the 12-member Executive Committee and the 452-member PNC.

Open up to new



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An Info-Media International Publication

A pioneering program in gifted education

By a Star Staff Writer

THE JUBILEE School for gifted children is a major concept in Jordanian education. Started in 1985, at the time of His Majesty King Hussein's Jubilee birthday anniversary, it has only just become fully operational. It was felt that there was a fundamental need to provide an education for gifted children that would serve as a pioneering model.

Subsequently becoming one of the major projects of the Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), "The Jubilee School," underscores Her Majesty Queen Noor's persistent search for excellence in the various fields of development, including education and reflects a deep interest on the part of educators of the great importance of gifted education in Jordan. An agreement recently worked out between Noor Al Hussein

Foundation and the Ministry of Education, providing a new school building in the Abdum area for the Jubilee School project will mean that the school will open its doors in September.

"The last National Conference on Educational Reform made it clear that any effective educational reform should care for special-needs populations, and gifted and talented students are among those who need special educational services beyond regular school programs," said Jubilee School Director Dr Fathi Jarwan. He added that research findings and practices in the field of gifted education reinforce this approach to gifted education. "It is in the interest of the country and the individual to see the talents of our children being nurtured," Dr Jarwan said.

The School has two primary goals: to provide high-ability students with an appropriate educational climate that would help them deal with present and future life, and to set standards for excellence in education by serving as a sciences and humanities educational model for school teachers in Jordan.

The school would enable students to develop a higher-level thinking skills, to make decisions and develop problem-solving abilities. The aim of the school is also to instill into the students civic awareness through participating in voluntary community activities.

Admission to the school is through a series of rigorous

procedures were candidates would be selected purely on their academic merits. In the initial stage, students would be nominated by their schools or their parents, and screening is carried out on the basis of accumulative academic records over the last five school years, as well as past accomplishments.

In the second stage, nominees would be subjected to an additional assessment by taking a general ability test, writing an essay and undergoing structured interviews. All data generated from those tests, interviews and writing assignments will be standardized, weighted and combined together to produce a final composite score.

Application forms as well as information on the School's philosophy, objectives, and admission procedures have already been forwarded to schools throughout the Greater Amman Area and other governorates. According to sources at Jubilee, about 900 applications have been received from different parts of the Kingdom.

Although the School program is designed to accommodate 9th, 10th, 11th and 12-graders, the first academic year will be open to a 100 of the current 8th-graders only. The school will accommodate 400 male and female students, and their enrollment will be on a scholarship basis to give the rich and the poor equal opportunities for admission.

The Jubilee School draws on an integrated approach to provide students with a healthy liv-

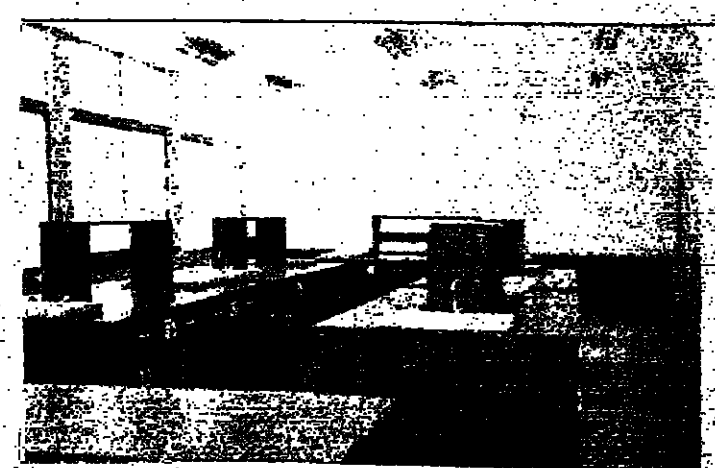
ing and learning environment that would lead to the full maximization of their potentials. It will utilize a number of materials for its curriculum. These include the current Ministry of Education curricula in a compressed and enriched form, additional compulsory and elective courses pertaining to students' needs and interests, a carefully-designed comprehensive program in the cultural, social, artistic, scientific and athletic fields, and community service activities.

A team of educational experts in the various topics of instruction is currently involved in the development of the School's curricula.

A Support Center for Excellence in Education will be attached to the Jubilee School. It will conduct research and produce manuals, modules and training programs to help meet the needs of high-ability children within their regular classrooms and schools. It will also provide counselling to gifted students and their parents and training to counsellors and teachers on gifted education.

This Support Center will also work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education and private educational institutions to transfer the Jubilee School experience to other schools in Jordan, as well as to help in their curriculum and teacher development.

The project has received technical assistance and support from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the British Council. Its planning and implementation are supported by the Ministry of Education.



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مكتبة الأمل

People & Politics

The guessing game has begun. Who'll be our next prime minister? We'll join the game with few guesses of our own although the government change may have taken effect by the time you read this column. The favourite remains Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker, who might settle for a limited reshuffle that will include deputy ministers, preparing to run for the next elections. But independent sources say the Sharif is anxious to relax and he might ask His Majesty the King to relieve him. In that case the name of Sharif Ben Shaker's deputy and Minister of Education Mr. Thounan Al Hindawi pops out as the most likely successor. His cabinet will most probably include many ministers from the outgoing government. Another candidate for prime minister is the Chief of the Royal Court Dr. Khaled Al Karaki, but many say that while he enjoys the King's confidence, he lacks in experience especially since the new government will oversee the holding of the Kingdom's first multi-party elections since the 1950s. Another name circulating is that of former prime minister Mr. Ahmad Obeidat, who was the chairman of the committee that drew up the National Charter. He fits the bill since he can make sure that the newly-licensed parties will stick to the rules of pluralism as stipulated in the National Charter. Happy guessing!



Hindawi



Karaki



Obeidat

Basel Jirdaneh, your time is up! When the minister of finance finally leaves his office sometime this month, he will be remembered as the man who helped fix the Kingdom's fiscal disorders but at the peoples' expense. Our sources tell us that Mr. Jirdaneh, a successful businessman who doesn't like to talk much, is unlikely to renew his term in a future government. While he's not in the business of being liked by the Jordanian business community, Mr. Jirdaneh takes credit for alienating himself through a number of tough laws and regulations which he introduced and which the private sector did not support.



Jirdaneh

The chief of Jordan's delegation to the peace talks Dr. Abdel Salam Al Majali isn't talking much about what goes behind the closed doors of the negotiation rooms. With Hanan Ashrawi and Haider Abdel Shafi both painting a rosy picture about the Israeli attitude in the ninth round of talks, Jordanians are wondering if progress is being made on the Jordanian-Israeli track. Syria's Muwaffak Al Alaf is as disgruntled as ever and the Syrian media is again bashing the Israelis for their intransigence. So what's happening? We assume that our delegation is cautious and would not like to raise false hopes, but we also assume that before long, Dr. Majali will emerge from the US State Department building with a smile on his face bearing good news.



Majali

The return of the 30 Palestinian deportees to their homeland have boosted Palestinian morale all around. In spite of the ongoing plight of the Marj Al Zuhour deportees, there was a great deal of optimism and symbolism surrounding last week's emotional return. The Israeli move to allow the deportees to return, after more than 20 years in exile, came after arduous negotiations between the PLO and the Israeli government through third parties, which included the US State Department and members of the Palestinian peace negotiations.

So what have the Palestinians gained? They have put Faisal Hussein where he belongs, with the rest of the Palestinian negotiating team; secured the return of loyal PLO activists, independents, communists and leftists, to the West Bank with the hope that they will be able to offset Hamas' growing influence in the increasingly radicalized Palestinian street; committed Israel publicly to giving some important concessions during the ninth round which include authority over land, water and population during the much talked about interim period and most important of all strengthened the PLO's position as the mainstream Palestinian movement that can make or break the negotiations.

With good news coming from Washington about a possible breakthrough along the Palestinian-Israeli track, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat appears to have made a healthy comeback.



Abu Rahmeh

Halim Abu Rahmeh is the Jordan Trade Association's (JTA) Operations Manager. The private sector organization has managed within a short period of time to bolster Jordanian exports to traditional and new markets including Sudan, Indonesia and the former Soviet Republics. Recently, Mr. Abu Rahmeh spoke with The Star's Bilal Hijawi about the 80-member club of Jordanian businesses and its recent activities.

The Star: When did JTA start and what motivated its creation?
Abu Rahmeh: When we started JTA we wanted to free Jordan's trade from the mercy of dependence on single markets and traditional markets such as GCC. Diversification is healthy and affords a country options should political jitters affect its foreign trade practice. When the Gulf War exploded in August 1990, it confirmed our

Who created the JTA?

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What activities would JTA do to implement its charter?
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What difficulties did you face in the beginning?
We had to convince people that other markets are more lucrative than those in proximity. We had to tell importers that Jordan existed industrially. We had to convince Jordanians that their long-term livelihood existed somewhere else — in Europe, Asia, the US and elsewhere — and that their investments should not necessarily be reaped instantly.

Which industries would you say are good sellers?
Pharmaceuticals come on top. Agricultural products follow, and textiles have found interesting niches in many markets ranging from Indonesia to the US. Though not huge in percentages but penetrating such difficult markets are a good and promising start. Across the board Jordanian industries are producing quality products and the increase in demand attests to that.



His Majesty King Hussein meeting with Muslim scholars Tuesday, who are participating in a seminar organized by Al Al Bait Foundation. The King called on Muslims to present the true Islam to the world as a service to humanity. The meeting was attended by HRH Crown Prince Hassan.

Hashd's general secretary

The goal of popular democracy

The General Secretary of the Jordan People's Democratic Party (Hashd), Mr. Tayseer Al Zabri, says his party will contest the coming multi-party elections, to be held sometime this summer. In an interview with The Star's Raed Al Abed, Mr. Zabri talked about his party's goals and platforms. He also expressed the party's stand on the economy, the IMF, the new world order and the peace process. Following are excerpts from the interview.

The Star: How do you view the future of political pluralism in Jordan?

Mr. Zabri: Political pluralism in Jordan is largely tied to the existence of current parties and to (the existence) of an organized wide popular support. The people must be organized not only through parties but through social, union-related and democratic institutions. Enlarging (popular) participation in the political process, will in turn mean safeguarding political pluralism. I am optimistic that such a process will evolve and the concept of popular understanding will be practiced at all social levels.

How will Hashd as a Marxist-Leninist party justify its participation in multi-party elections?

This will not be the first time we run for elections. We participated in the 1984 bi-elections in Madaba and Irbid and in the general elections of 1989. We will join the 1993 elections on the basis of participation and struggle for social democratic change and this does not contradict with the ideological line of our party. We refer to Marxist-Leninist (theory) but not in a dogmatic way. Marxism evolves like life itself. International communist parties have run for elections as one form of struggle to express the party's platform and to attract national support. Revolutionary parties

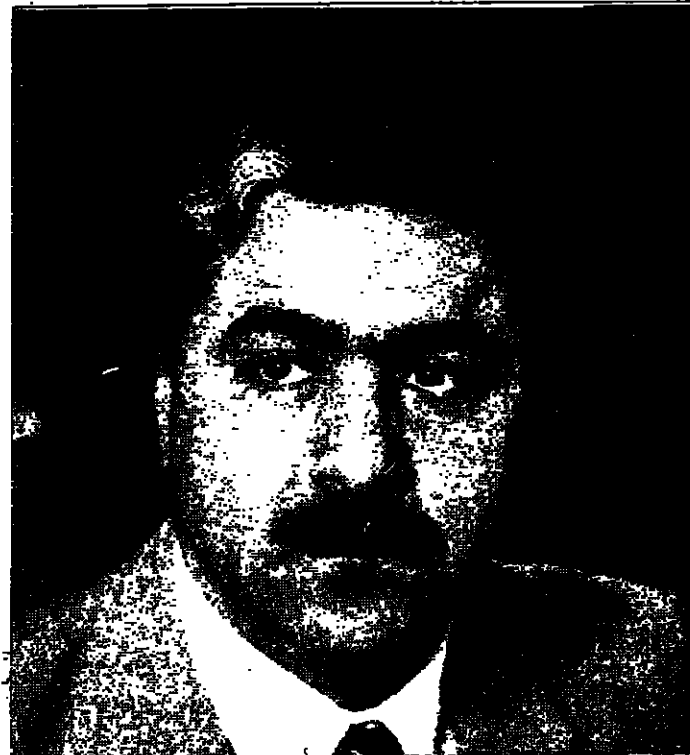
must manage this process well to serve its progressive and social goals.

What is your party's stand on the Jordanian economy?

The Jordanian economy is a free economy, but this is not the point of argument (between a free and a planned economy). Our economy is still governed by forms of market capitalism. And we rely on an economic foundation that has dissipated our wealth and led us into indebtedness with the devaluation of the dinar having severe repercussions on our people in terms of the increase in prices and the decrease in the rate of incomes. This policy of impoverishing the people is continuing and is serving the self-interests of the bourgeoisie elite. Our economy is mostly a non-productive one; it is a service-oriented economy based on intermediaries and parasites — something which has caused this country to waste its resources in the middle of the 1970s. Great fortunes were wasted on consumer projects and not on building productive bases to solve our problems. We need a policy that is the result of the participation of all political and economic powers to guarantee a healthy transition from this state to a better one gradually.

Would you nationalize Jordanian industries?

We call for state control over basic production tools, but we are not against private ownership and the building of a form of cooperative economy. We want state control over foreign imports and foreign trade because they lead to emptying the pockets of the Jordanian economy. Our's is not a radical policy, but a pragmatic one. Other than that we can find tens of forms that guarantee individual freedom in ownership in a way that does not affect the interest of the society and its needs.



Al Zabri: Our economy is a non-productive one

What would your party do about unemployment?

Unemployment is one form of the economic crisis. We have high rates of unemployment ranging between 18 and 25 percent. We have no accurate statistics because our administrations are unable to conduct accurate surveys, but we know it is high. It's a great waste of resources and we believe the solution is closely tied to restructuring the Jordanian economy on productive basis. We want to protect our economy from all forms of lavish consumption, we want to protect our workers from expatriate workers. Currently owners of capital prefer foreign labor because they don't have to pay fair wages or provide social or health security. These actions weaken labor unions and hinder its efforts to defend labor rights. We need a national and comprehensive economic policy, a new labor law that protects the Jordanian worker and new social security law that enlarges the umbrella of social guarantees.

How would your party deal with the IMF and the World Bank?

All the countries that tried the IMF reached the same end; the crisis remained and the foreign funds served its interests at the expense of the people who suffered the most as a result of foreign debt. The philosophy of the IMF is to get back the money of its members from developing nations. Social dimensions do not interest them. That is why they (the IMF) are against protectionism and for increasing taxes. They are against state intervention and for a free hand for the banks and companies to do what they like. Poverty increases when the IMF steps in. Even when government succeed in delaying payment or rescheduling, the interests on these loans become another problem. While we are not against repayment, we call for a common Third World action to exempt us from some payments and to reduce the overall sum so that these countries can build a stronger economy.

Islamists accuse other parties of scaring voters

AMMAN (Star) — Prominent Muslim Brotherhood member and Lower House deputy Mr. Ziad Abu Ghaneima has accused various political trends in Jordan of launching a political and media campaign to scare the voters and prevent the Islamists from getting elected. He wrote in *Ad Dustour* on Wednesday that the elections are being turned into a battle field.

He said that while the Islamists are in favor of holding the election under the present election law, they are not against proposals to amend it. But he expressed his movement's rejection of any amendments that are not carried out through the proper legislative channels of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament. ■

Business Chronicle

Edited by Bilal Hijawi

Is Jordan's economy in a loop?

...or is it on track and going somewhere. Data compiled by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce indicate that the second proposition maybe the case. For starters, 1992 marked an irregular expansion in our national economy: Gross Domestic Product (GDP) registered an 8.6 percent and at market prices it was 11.6 percent, when most world economies were itching for extra points on GDP indexes. All sector's fared well. The report indicated that the commercial and tourist services sectors had the highest growth rates, averaging 35 percent. The construction, water and electricity and agriculture sectors grew by 22, 14.6 and 10.3 percent respectively. With such growth rates it means that the economy was able to ride the dangers engendered in the aftermath of the Gulf War.

The government's monetary policy has been a guiding light in maintaining the exchange value of the dinar by exercising stringent controls on the rate of domestic capital expansion, credit, and by tying it to increases in net foreign capital reserves.

How expensive is Amman?

● The living index (Consumer Price Index, or CPI) gives a clear picture on how much consumer prices have changed over time. Its an indicator to inflation and the decreasing purchasing power in a specific country. According to Dr. Fahed Al Fanek's *Economic Monitor*, Amman was found "not that expensive." The finding comes in response to an earlier claim by a study of a Swiss consulting group that Amman is the most expensive Arab capital. He quoted a *Financial Times* report which put the cost of the 1992 living index in Amman at 81.8 against London's 100 points. Tripoli scored 121.9, Casablanca 92.7, Riyadh 88.0, Muscat 87.6, Doha 85.1, Manama 84.0, Tunis 83.5, Abu Dhabi 81.8, Dubai 81.4 and Cairo 76.2. Tokyo registered a whopping 161.6 — the highest, worldwide, and Tel Aviv 93 points.

Lame duck government

● It appears that the government is a lame duck when it comes to passing the sales tax law. The Star has learned that 11 ministers have refused to sign the sales tax draft bill proposed by the government because they will be standing for the next Parliamentary elections. The cabinet failed twice last week to adopt the bill because deputy ministers fear voters will use the bill against them when they finally cast their ballot.

Point of order

Are Egyptian nationals leaving to their country via the Aqaba-Nuweiba sea terminal being mistreated by Jordanian border police? This is what an Englishman and his wife claim to have witnessed last week as they arrived from Egypt into Aqaba. They say Egyptian workers were being rounded in groups, "put in cages", spat at, and verbally and physically abused. No independent confirmation of this incident could be obtained by The Star. But we know that some in the past have reported that they were ill treated by Jordanians. Egyptian press reported a number of such incidents and as expected Jordanians were also mistreated by Egyptian officials at various ports of entry. Whatever the reasons, Jordanian police have no right to abuse anyone, regardless of his or her nationality. We assume that Jordanian laws protect everybody and we also assume that democracy and human rights apply to anyone under our skies!

Continued on page 4

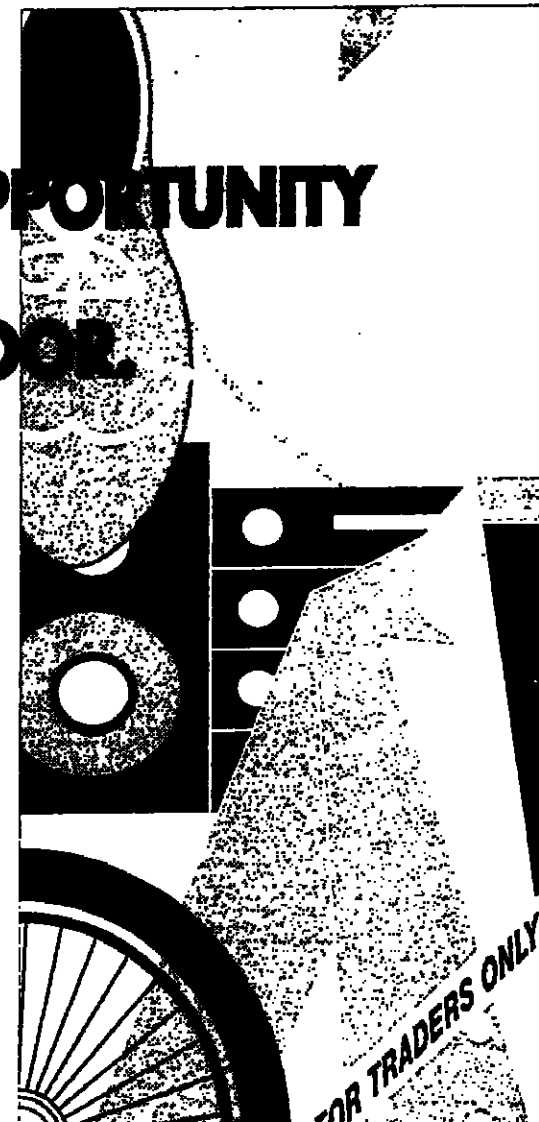
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AMMAN	HOTEL AMARA 6-5-93 & 7-5-93 : Exhibition 8-5-93 : Follow up
BEIRUT	HOTEL BRISTOL 10-5-93 & 11-5-93 : Exhibition 12-5-93 : Follow up
Timings : 10 am to 1 pm. 5 pm to 8 pm	



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JTA seeks to free Jordan's trade from the mercy of traditional markets

Halim Abu Rahmeh is the Jordan Trade Association's (JTA) Operations Manager. The private sector organization has managed within a short period of time to bolster Jordanian exports to traditional and new markets including Sudan, Indonesia and the former Soviet Republics. Recently, Mr. Abu Rahmeh spoke with The Star's Bilal Hijawi about the 80-member club of Jordanian businesses and its recent activities.

The Star: When did JTA start and what motivated its creation?
Abu Rahmeh: When we started JTA we wanted to free Jordan's trade from the mercy of dependence on single markets and traditional markets such as GCC. Diversification is healthy and affords a country options should political jitters affect its foreign trade practice. When the Gulf War exploded in August 1990, it confirmed our

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Art as a business

Cultural infusion in the heart of Jordan

By Vesna Masharqa
Special to The Star

ECONOMIC INSTABILITY, high unemployment and rising poverty block cultural development and its expansion. However, in Jordan, the effect is quite the opposite.

Jordan's democratic experiment as well as the Gulf Crisis, which effectively closed the Gulf TV market for local productions have meant that an infusion of cultural developments in this country began to increase. The influx of new talents among returnees, mixed with a new generation of educated artists and artists-veterans, have all created an artistic force that is capable of generating cultural variety.

During the last three years, over a 100 cultural forums were licensed, together with a number of private cultural centers, galleries and new folk groups that sprang up. They absorbed a great deal of artistic talent.

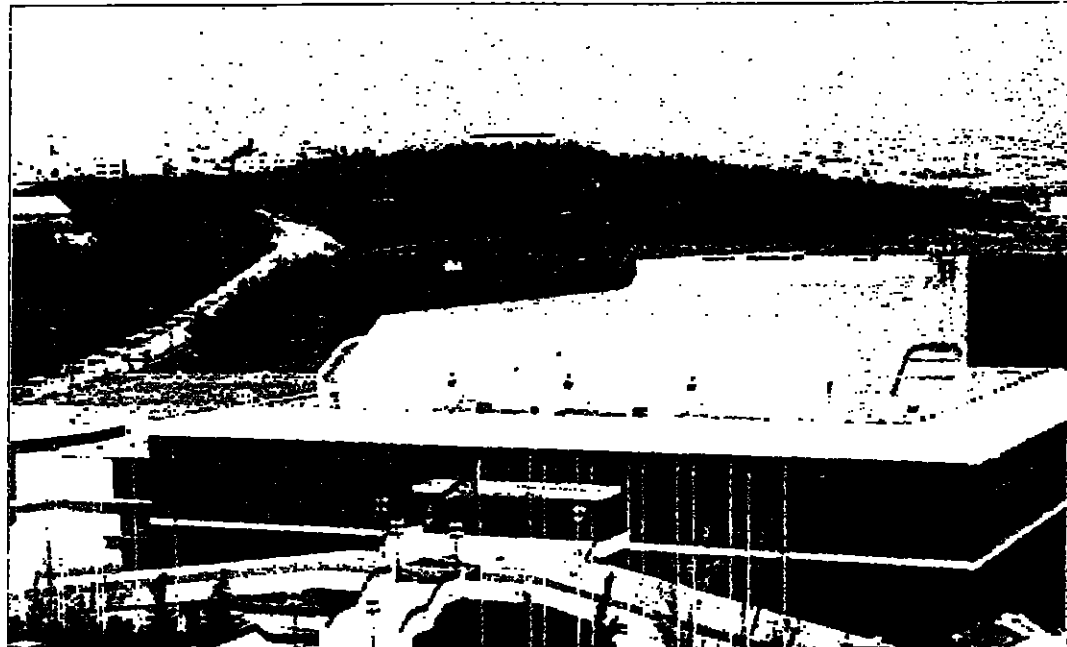
Precisely how successful these private cultural ventures are, both financially and artistically, depends on how much the Jordanian public are able to consume and digest such endeavours. This is also related to issues of elite and folk art and the ways of marketing them and ultimately making a profit out of them.

"Cultural needs are defined by the historical moment the society is undergoing. Because Jordanian people are struggling with the elementary needs we can predict how much they can afford to spend on cultural activities," said Fathi Abd Al Rahman, theater director and owner of the Popular Theatre, which entered its second year.

In his theater, Mr Al Rahman promotes elite art productions, which he believes should be "simple, and close to wider community in its themes, techniques and style."

He also hosts visits of other Arab countries' theatres, hoping that such cultural exchange and exposure to different experiences will encourage variety in local artistic styles.

"Since the government



The Royal Culture Centre: Privatizing culture?

doesn't have funds for financial backing of theatrical productions, we artists have to depend on ourselves and our joint efforts. We should recruit wider audience, which will make us self-sufficient; the government

should take responsibility for spreading awareness in society about theater, and that practically means, introducing theatre in schools and encouraging the private sector to support the arts in this country," he said.

For him, the first year passed without generating sufficient income, in spite of the donations that he received, but second year promises a more balanced accounts, although external support is much less than before.

In the opinion of Riad Al Khouri, economist and businessman who recently started producing theater plays, Jordan has strong cultural potential, but it needs at least ten years to develop it and promote its capital, Amman, to the that of being a major cultural center.

"Economic crisis in Jordan inflicted low consuming potential amongst its citizens. My estimation is that only 15 percent of the adult population is financially able to enjoy the cultural services at home. But,

then again they don't, as it depends on their previous cultural exposure and its effect on encouraging cultural habits into their daily life program," he said.

He stressed that the only way out of this situation is the privatization of culture, which will create competition on the market. The variety will impose struggle for better expression and high arts will gain wider recognition. The benefits of privatization of culture won't appear immediately. It has long term effect. "Political drama which is at the moment favored by the theater audience will remain a form of mass entertainment for some time, until people get used to democracy and freedom of expression. But later, the audience will seek more depth in art," he said.

Commenting on the financial aspect of his last production *The Death of Taba*, which was evaluated by the critics as a "superb theatrical piece," Mr Al Khouri says that Taba did not yet cover its full expense but he expects that in the end it will make a return.

This all depends on how big an audience the play will reach. He has great hopes about at-

tracting students who number about 1.8 million and form three-eighth of the population to the theatre

Meanwhile, Mohammad Masharqa, one of the previous owners of the Phoenix Experimental Arts Center and its cultural director for two years believes that any cultural venture within the existing social reality is an adventure. As he stressed, 60 percent of the population is under poverty line, 24 percent are new bourgeoisie and only 6 percent are from the middle class.

"The main cultural consumer in Jordan is the middle class, and a small part being from the bourgeoisie. Our bourgeoisie is capable of stimulating and guiding cultural expansion, but they do not have rooted cultural traditions or awareness of its importance. It will take some time until they realize and assume responsibility of developing a cultural role."

Masharqa is in the process of establishing a cultural center which will be entitled to carry out projects in other parts of Jordan. He is counting on private sector support, and many have already shown great interest. ■



Khouri



Rahman

Foreign labor remains attracted to the Gulf market

The desire to increase the level of participation of nationals in the economic life of the Gulf States is becoming ever more apparent

In the six countries of the Gulf foreign workers outnumber national workers by far. In the United Arab Emirates, for example, nine workers of every ten are immigrants. The 1991 crisis, which hit these foreign workers particularly hard, also shifted ratios and policies. But the need for foreign labor is still considerable.

THE ARAB world has become one of the key regions for international migration for employment. It includes a number of emigration countries, most of which are suffering a population explosion and have few oil resources as well as immigration countries which are major oil producers but have small domestic populations, the latter group specifically includes the six Gulf countries which, after the oil boom of the 1970s, became one of the world's major centres of immigration.

In 1990, foreigners in the six Gulf countries accounted for 63.2 percent of the total workforce. In the United Arab Emirates, the figure is as high as 91 percent, gradually lowering to 81 percent in Qatar, 79 percent in Kuwait, 61 percent in Oman, 55 percent in Saudi Arabia and 53 percent in Bahrain. The origins of the immigrants have become more diverse as foreign labour requirements increase. Immigration from Asia has progressively followed upon and, in some cases replaced, Arab labour. Continuing flows of migrants, even in a period of eco-

nomie depression, as was the case in the mid-1980s, bear witness to the degree of dependence of various economic sectors of foreign labour.

While the oil boom created vast population movements, the Gulf Crisis again changed patterns of migration in the region. Some two million people packed their bags and made for home under particularly dramatic conditions. Some 94 percent of the foreign population of Kuwait left the country and nearly half a million workers - mainly Egyptians - moved out of Iraq. Originally limited to these two countries, the exodus spread to Saudi Arabia, which put an end to the privileged status of about 700,000 Yemenis, and, to a lesser degree, affected other Gulf States.

The end of the crisis and the reconstruction of Kuwait again triggered migration in what appears to be a different context. Although all the Gulf countries are still heavily dependent on foreign labour, recent developments show significant changes in migration policies. The emphasis is to be placed increasingly on diversifying the origins of the migrants. This trend should, over the short term at



least result in a considerable strengthening of the Asian labour force, and a reduction in non-native Arabs. Moreover, the desire to increase the level of participation of nationals in the economic life of the Gulf States is becoming ever more apparent. This new approach seems to be catering to a concern about safeguarding the demographic, social and cultural balance within each country, while also solving the problem of rising unemployment among nationals.

However, these changes cause no great difference in the outlook for migration to the re-

gion. The Gulf States will continue to be an area of heavy international immigration for workers in search of employment.

The origin of the foreign labour force, its composition and working and living conditions, will vary with the needs of the moment and be influenced more heavily by political factors and economic necessities. In all these countries, the protection of migrant workers, whose precarious situation became quite apparent during the Gulf Crisis, will be of major concern to both the states of the regions and to the ILO. ■



Home at last! Former mayor of the West Bank town of Al Bireh Dr Abdel Jawad Saleh holding his 95-year-old mother last week for the first time since he was deported by the Israelis in 1973. Dr Saleh is one of 30 Palestinian deportees which Israel has allowed to return recently.

Years of exile: Return of Palestinian deportees

A GROUP of 30 long-time Palestinian deportees arrived back in the West Bank to a tumultuous welcome from more than 3000 well-wishers.

The deportees were expelled between 1967 and 1987 and allowed back as a goodwill gesture by Israel after the resumption of Middle East peace talks.

It took several hours before the deportees and their families, were cleared by Israeli officials after their bus arrived from Jordan across the Allenby Bridge spanning the River Jordan.

But a crowd of 100 Israeli settlers tore down welcoming posters for the deportees in the West Bank town of Ramallah and pelted Palestinian houses with stones before being dispersed by troops.

A reception was scheduled to be held in Ramallah before the former exiles returned to their homes.

The 30 are well respected figures in the territories but were not in the front line of the Palestinian struggle against the Israelis. They were expelled for political reasons and were never involved in violence.

Their return was described as "a stab in the back" by Abdel Aziz al Rantisi, spokesman for 396 deportees still stranded in south Lebanon after their expulsion in December.

However, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Amr Mousa, said the deportees' return would help to "build confidence" between the Israelis and Palestinians.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, said the return of the deportees agreed "to remove any pretext for holding up the peace talks." All but two were expelled before 1980.



A festive reception for the deportees at the bridge

"None has been involved in a terrorist operation and none has Israeli blood on his hand," Mr Rabin said.

Israel has deported indefinitely 1250 Palestinians since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war when it seized the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Until now only a handful have been allowed back, including Haidar Abdel Shafi, who heads the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) handed the US State Department a list of 50 Palestinians from various groups in February, and after protracted negotiations Israel rejected 20, all from Fatah, the PLO mainstream group.

Last December Mr Rabin expelled 415 Palestinians for two years, a sentence since cut to one year with 101 allowed to return immediately. The deportees rejected the offer and 396

remain marooned in no man's land in southern Lebanon, where they have spent a fourth night camped out in front of an Israeli army position in protest at the resumption of the peace talks.

Those who returned yesterday include the former mayor of El Bireh, Abdel Jawad Saleh, who was expelled in 1973; Hanna Nasser, president of Bir Zeit university, banished in 1974; Fayed Warrad, former leader of the Palestinian Communist Party, expelled in 1967, and Azmi Shuaibi, an official of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine deported in 1986.

Also heading home was Hassan Abdel Jawad, a 38-year-old journalist expelled in 1987 for membership of the radical Popular Front Front for the Liberation of Palestine. His mother and father died in the two years after his exile.

The first bus of exiles of 15

left Amman early last week and was seen off from the Jordanian side of the bridge by nearly 300 people, including PLO officials, family and friends.

A banner on the road to Jericho read "Welcome back heroes to your beloved country. Thousands of Palestinians had flocked into the town to celebrate and Israeli army jeeps struggled to make their way through the crowds.

At Bir Zeit, the most prestigious university in the occupied territories, the door of its returning president's home had been decorated with olive branches and a banner hailed the "return of our steadfast hero."

Balloons were tied to telephone poles in Ramallah with the traditional Arab greeting "Ahlan Wa Sahlan". ■

The Independent

Tayseer Al Zabiri

The campaign against the Islamist is amplified to serve colonial objectives

Continued from page 3

cess was built. It should have been based on international laws on the Arab-Israeli conflict instead of the so-called US-Russian sponsorship; the process should have been held under international auspices because it is the UN that is responsible for the application of its resolutions. Instead, the PLO was excluded and Jerusalem was excluded and no guarantees were given to ensure compliance with 242 and 338.

Presently, there are no indications that we are heading towards a comprehensive and just settlement to the Palestinian problem or to the political and economic problems of the region. That is why we demanded the withdrawal of the teams before the opening of the ninth round unless resolution 799 on the return of 400 Palestinian deportees is applied.

Israel will have to comply with international laws if faced

with a united Arab, a united Palestinian, and a united international stand.

How do you see the fall of communism and the rise of the new world order?

The West cheered because of the crisis that socialist countries passed through. Communism has not fallen, but a number of socialist countries had collapsed, others remain and are progressing. Socialism is the fate of humanity because it offers human justice.

What happened in a number of socialist countries is that they turned into state and party bureaucracies at a time when foreign conspiracies were increasing. These countries failed not because they were socialist or Marxist but because they were bureaucratic regimes.

As to the new world order, it is an American system to govern the world under the banner of democracy and freedoms, but it is a system of single control over the rights of people

and the reimposition of colonialism.

Has Islam replaced communism as the West's target?

Confronting the so-called Islamic trend or fundamentalism started after the collapse of a number of socialist countries. There is a historical buffer here since most of these movements were used by revisionists and colonial powers in their aggression on progressive, socialist and leftist fronts. Now the campaign against the Islamic and fundamentalist powers is being amplified in order to open the way before the imperialist powers and the so-called new world order to complete their control of the Middle East and the Third World.

We think these political Islamist movements have thrived because of the worsening economic and social conditions and because of the grip of the military autocracy in certain countries.

How will your party perform in the next elections?

We will do our best since we now have the experience of the previous elections. Our program will be based on cementing and deepening the democratic process so as to make a transition from party democracy to a comprehensive social democracy.

We will offer a program to start economic and social adjustment to serve the people and we will offer a political platform opposed to the American-Israeli onslaught. And we will resort to a wider national and democratic front comprised of all powers, leftists, Islamists and progressives to make a democratic stand and to achieve the biggest possible victory. ■

The Star
645-380

كنايت الأمل

Oliver Tambo: The elder statesman of African politics

By Anthony Sampson

OLIVER TAMBO, the President of the African National Congress over three decades, was probably the most influential black South African leader of his time — but from an extraordinary position. He was in exile for almost the whole of his presidency, and his statements could not be published inside his home country.

His personal style was much more like a priest's or a scholar's than a politician's. With his slow walk, his grey side-whiskers and his long silences, "the Old Man" (as his colleagues called him) often appeared very aloof from the political fray.

But his faith and firm principles helped to give him a unique moral authority as a leader, and the ability to view setbacks in a long perspective. And he was in fact a shrewd politician and diplomat, who could hold rival factions together through patient conciliation and purpose.

Tambo's world reputation was eclipsed by that of his life-long friend and colleague Nelson Mandela. But he was always the indispensable partner to Mandela, in and out of jail; and his leadership had been more thoroughly tested by the time Mandela was released from detention in February 1990.

Tambo and Mandela, men of the same age, both came from the Transkei region of South Africa which was the rural heartland of the Xhosa people. While Mandela came from a royal family Tambo was a peasant's son, with a more inverted and reflective style than Mandela's. They were together at Fort Hare, then the only black university college in South Africa, and in 1944 they both became founder-members of the Youth League which injected new radicalism and urgency into the then passive African National Congress.

Tambo became a mathematics teacher at St. Peter's, Rosettenville, the prestigious mission school outside Johannesburg which was then run by the Rev. Trevor Huddleston — whose inspiration greatly influenced him, and who remained his life-long friend.

But Tambo like Mandela turned to law as the most effective means of working for black rights. Together they set up the firm of Mandela and Tambo in a small office in central Johannesburg which became a focus for black grievances and political discussion in the early Fifties. As a lawyer Tambo came up against the full ruthlessness of apartheid legislation; but he acquired a respect for the principles and primacy

of the law which always remained with him. At that time (when I first met them there) they were both more reserved and serious-minded than most of their political colleagues, and cautious of white contacts.

As apartheid was tightened, Tambo was inevitably drawn into the front line of politics — through the defiance campaign of 1952, the Freedom Charter and the Treason Trial of 1958 and the Sharpeville crisis of 1960, after which he was involved in the crucial talks which led the ANC to abandon passive resistance in favour of the armed struggle.

When the ANC was banned in 1960, its President, Chief Albert Luthuli, had already chosen Tambo to lead the ANC in

exaggerated by Pretoria and its allies. After a visit to Moscow in the mid-Eighties Tambo told me that the Russians had for the first time made a comment about ANC policy; suggesting that the Freedom Charter put too much emphasis on nationalisation.

Tambo himself was privately convinced that black South Africans would never choose Communism; and he continued to look westward, and particularly towards Britain, which he saw as critically responsible for the nation which it had created and financed. He also looked to Britain's moral authority as the defender of the world against Nazism — which he always saw as closely linked to the racism and evils of apartheid.

sanctions for which he had long hoped. In both the US and Britain he now had a more sympathetic hearing from politicians, bankers and businessmen, who were worried they might be caught on the wrong side. By 1985 the big Western banks felt compelled by pressure from campaigners to stop lending to Pretoria — a shift which provided the most effective sanctions.

Tambo was also beginning to be received by conservative politicians, including George Shultz in Washington and Sir Geoffrey Howe in London, and by Afrikaner leaders from South Africa. He could be remarkably forgiving to those who had supported apartheid, and could even sympathize with President Botha's problems. But he was increasingly distressed and bewildered by the determination of Margaret Thatcher to brand the ANC as terrorists without criticising Pretoria's violence — which he saw as giving Botha much-needed respect.

Tambo returned to South Africa in December 1990, 10 months after the unbanning of the ANC and Mandela's release from detention. Tambo had not been fully fit since suffering a stroke in 1989, and Mandela succeeded him as President of the ANC in July 1991, although Tambo was still working three days a week in the ANC offices at the time of his death.

Tambo's style was in total contrast to any picture of a terrorist leader; gentle, avuncular, with great warmth of friendship expressed in long hugs and finger-holding, African style. When meeting someone who interested him he liked to look them slowly up and down, to size them up. He travelled constantly, defying his doctors' pleas and disliking the constraints of security; but when in London he was often immersed in family life, with his wife Adelaide and their children in their house in Muswell Hill.

His informality and apparent vagueness made some Westerners sceptical of the strength of his leadership; but his colleagues treated the "old man" with visible awe. Like some other black leaders, including Martin Luther King, his influence had a strong moral element and his name was chanted in the townships, alongside Mandela's, as symbols of their people's aspirations and confidence.

Mr Tambo was buried on Sunday, amidst a 21 gun Salute by the ANC and a crowd of 15,000 who came to pay their last respect. ■

The Independent



Lifelong friends: Oliver Tambo (right) after his return from exile, with Nelson Mandela, Soweto, December 1990

exile — Tambo escaped to London and then Tanzania in the same year — while Mandela remained inside and was eventually captured, convicted of sabotage, and sentenced to life imprisonment. Tambo thus found himself with the lonely responsibility of leading a banished movement which was now committed to military action, and urgently needed foreign friends, without contact with his colleagues in jail.

He first looked to Britain and the United States for support, in vain. He raised some funds from Scandinavia and Holland; but he received his main support from the Soviet Union and East Germany, who thereafter provided funds, training and weapons free of charge. The ANC thus inevitably looked eastward and acquired some more Communist influences and friends. But the "Moscow conspiracy" was always much

His early hopes that Western powers would apply sanctions were dashed, and through the Sixties and Seventies Tambo had to rely on fitful ANC guerrilla bands to maintain some opposition to apartheid governments which were becoming increasingly ruthless. But from his exile in Zambia Tambo still maintained close links with blacks inside South Africa. The revolt in Soweto in 1976 was primarily inspired by the "black consciousness" movement set up by Steve Biko, which was much more purely black than the ANC. But when thousands of refugees streamed northwards, Tambo was very skilful in welcoming them into the multiracial ranks of the ANC.

In the early Eighties Tambo began to achieve more success with Western support, particularly in the US; but it was not until the revolt of 1984-85 that he at last saw the beginnings of



Monica Seles, the Yugoslavian world No 1 women tennis player, being comforted by her brother after being stabbed from the back by a spectator as she rested in between games during a tournament in Hamburg. It is thought the attack might have been a protest against her Serbian background, but all police would say that the attacker was a man.

Oxfam Report:

Africa on a knife edge

By Michael Holeman

OXFAM called on the west to back a Marshall Plan for sub-Saharan Africa, warning that without greater assistance the region's economic crisis is set to deepen.

"Africa is on a knife edge," said Mr David Bryer, director of the charity based in the UK, launching its Africa recovery program.

The end of the Cold War, "fragile" peace in Ethiopia, Eritrea and Mozambique, and the emergence of more representative governments in Africa provided the opening for a western initiative, said Mr Bryer, adding: "Northern nations have the power to tip the balance, to support the current opportunities for recovery or to sentence the region to a spiralling and agonizing decline."

But unless the opportunity were seized, prospects were bleak, Mr Bryer warned. In the words of the charity's 40-page analysis of the crisis: "Economic stagnation, social breakdown, decaying infrastructures, crippling debt burdens, ruinous prices for commodity exports, and environmental degradation threaten to retard Africa's development prospects into the next century, with frightening consequences for human welfare."

"Without recovery, more than 300 million people — half the region's population — will be living in poverty by the end of the decade."

The report accuses the west of lacking the political will, contrasting the response to problems of eastern Europe and



Russia with "their neglect for over a decade of Africa's far deeper problems."

Some of Oxfam's sharpest criticism is directed at the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, arguing that their policies are "hurting but not working."

The Fund's "increasingly damaging role" stems from policy mistakes in the early 1980s, says the report: "The Fund treated what was a problem of insolvency as one of short-term liquidity, extending short-term loans at high interest rates to cover structural and trade deficits."

The Fund embarked on financing "what was bound to be a slow process of adjustment and recovery with the wrong resources and the wrong approach."

"Africa has been paying the price ever since." It is time for northern governments "to face up to the fact that the IMF has failed Africa..."

The time has come either to fundamentally reform the IMF or extricate it from Africa."

The report calls for a write-

off or concessional rescheduling of much of the region's external debt.

The debt crisis is deepening, says Oxfam. Total external debt in 1992 was \$193 billion including IMF and World Bank debt — \$30 billion higher than in 1989 when large scale cancellations began.

Multilateral agencies, mainly the World Bank and IMF, accounted for 36 percent of debt servicing payments in 1991. Neither agency, under existing rules, is permitted to reschedule or write off debt.

Tackling the debt burden would be central to Oxfam's five-point recovery program, which urges western governments to treat Africa with the same sense of urgency and concern that prompted the Marshall Plan.

Under the plan, launched at the end of the second world war, the US transferred some 2 percent of its gross national product to support the rebuilding of post war Europe.

Oxfam will put its debt proposals to the G7 summit in Tokyo in July.

Oxfam's recovery program also calls for:

● Increased aid flows, mov-

ing towards the UN target of 0.7 percent of GDP for aid.

● A fund to help Africa process its commodity exports: the ending of subsidised disposal of agricultural surpluses; reduction of protectionist barriers against Africa's ex-

ports.

● Reform of structural adjustment programs, including protection for African industries and greater investment in health and education.

● Strengthening the UN role in aid and peace keeping: the appointment of one special representative responsible for co-ordinating UN operations.

The report says that while the 1980s were grim, "things are getting steadily worse." Gains in health and education are being eroded, and as a result "Africa is being disempowered as the educational gap between itself and other parts of the world widens."

Oxfam's analysis is at odds with the World Bank's appraisal, published last February. "Sub-Saharan countries have achieved significant progress in the last few years. Growth has resumed," said the Bank.

Though it acknowledges the 1990s will be a critical decade, the Bank maintains that the merits of its recovery program, arguing that "adjustment has improved the lives of the majority of Africa's population."

Financial Times

International news in brief

★ China and Taiwan maybe on the way to restoring full diplomatic ties 44 years after they were first broken. This follows a series of scientific, technological and cultural agreements between the two countries.

★ At least 150 people were injured in demonstrations against the Russian President Boris Yeltsin during the May Day celebrations. Scuffles broke out with the police when 2000 communist and nationalist demonstrators, gathered around the Russian Parliament and tried to make their way to Red Square. Unconfirmed reports say that at least two civilians and a policeman were killed.

★ Three contenders, besides President Rafsanjani, will run for the Iranian Presidential election to be held on 11 June according to informed sources. The President, currently the favourite is expected to win because of his economic reform program.



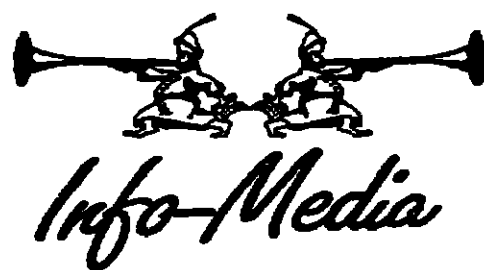
Riot police confronting demonstrators with batons in Moscow during the May Day celebrations.

★ President Ranainghe Premadasa of Sri Lanka was assassinated by a suicide bomber while leading a May Day parade through the capital. Anthony Fernando the President's spokesman said at least 10 people were

killed and 60 injured as explosives strapped to the assailant blew up.

★ The Serbian leader Radovan Karadzic have accepted the Vance-Owen plan in a meeting held in Athens last week which he

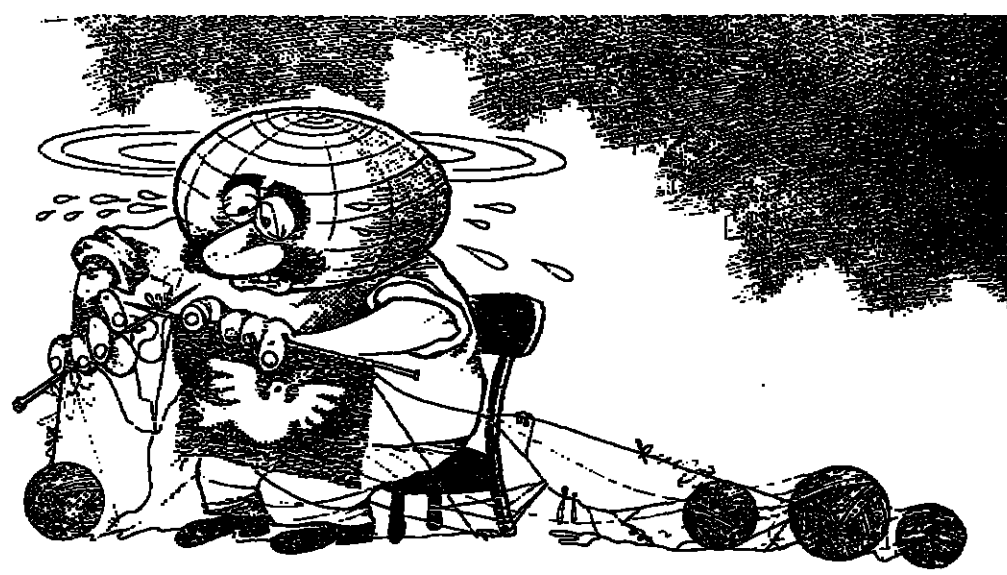
will now recommend to the Bosnian Serb parliament. This changed attitude comes as a direct result of renewed pressure from the Clinton administration of military air strikes against Serbian targets in Bosnia and of the lifting of the boycott against military supplies to the Muslims. The Serbs have previously rejected the plan that sought to divide Bosnia into 10 autonomous regions, as a solution to the Serbs-Muslim conflict.



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Our Say....

Bring the PLO in

IT'S TOO early to make judgements on the ninth round of the Washington peace negotiations on the Middle East, but according to the Palestinian delegates, their talks with the Israelis seem to be moving into full gear. If one is to read the Israeli position correctly, it will be safe to assume that a number of concessions will be offered to the Palestinians on land, water and human rights before the end of the current round.

Whether the Palestinians accept these offers, reject them, or amend them is another issue. The fact remains that the Israelis are beginning to realize that the Palestinians — whether in Tunis or in the Occupied Territories or Marj Al Zohour — are united on one thing at least, forcing the Israelis to take heed and ease up, theoretically at least on the concept of "Eretz Israel" and on the 25-year-old occupation.

But whatever the Palestinians obtain from the Washington talks, it must be seen as an upward hill, towards a long-term and a comprehensive settlement. A partial and hence local settlement, as Israeli leaders describe it, just will not do. The broadlines of the peace agreement between Palestinians and Israelis must include full withdrawal, right of self-determination and right of return in accordance with UN resolutions.

The Israelis will attach many conditions to their so-called concessions and they will introduce new terms that aim at redefining the main issues that make up the Palestine Question. Such attempts however, must not be allowed to succeed and hamper Palestinian resolve.

As the Israelis and Palestinians propose and counter propose, we believe that the PLO must become involved in the negotiating process and it is also time for the US to stand up and to establish an open dialogue with the Palestinian leadership in Tunis.

It must be stated that all Israeli and US attempts to isolate the people of the Occupied Territories from the PLO have met with failure.

If the purpose of the Middle East talks is to give the Palestinians their political rights, then the first right would be to have their legitimate representative directly involved in the talks, a representative that would be committed to negotiations and to the goals of peace.

The United States, as a full partner now, has a responsibility to move the negotiations on a higher moral pedestal and intensify negotiations on all tracks.

But alas, Israel's bloody hands have struck again in Gaza resulting in the killing of innocent Palestinians. If the final goal of the talks is to end Israel's occupation of these territories, then the latest spate of violence is uncalled for because it achieves nothing for the Israelis. The United States must work quickly to end the killing of Palestinians because Israel's schizophrenia exemplified in its talking peace while doing the killing is serving no purpose.

By Khairi Janbek

IN ALL wars, the first victim of conflagration tends to be the truth about the numbers of military personnel killed in action, as well as the number of civilians lost as a consequence. The Gulf War is no exception under the circumstances, especially if one considers the fact that, freedom of information is a rare commodity in Iraq, and the linkage of military effectiveness with human slaughter is a common notion in the eyes of the American public.

The real truth about the Iraqi human casualties may be somewhere lost in certain archives, but the search for the relative truth remains the duty of researchers who should challenge the conventional wisdom of the exaggerated press reports, both locally and internationally.

My approach to the estimates of the Iraqi war casualties is based upon the work of the American researcher John G. Heidenrich. The Pentagon's Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) declared in May 1991 that the number of the dead Iraqi military personnel is 100,000, the wounded 300,000 and the number of deserters is 150,000. When grabbed by the mass media, however, it was forgotten to state that the DIA has actually said that those numbers were subject to 50 per cent error margin. In any case, those numbers were totally repudiated later on by the US Defence Department.

If one is to follow a logical approach in trying to calculate the number of the Iraqi casualties, then one has to rely on the little scraps of information available to researchers whose tools of trade is freedom of information.

For a start, the Iraqi armor was composed of the Soviet-made tanks T 55, T 62, and T 72; its crews were 4, 4 and 3 respectively. According to the released numbers of destroyed Iraqi tanks, by the Pentagon, the number amounts to 2162 Iraqi tanks destroyed. If we take an average of 3.7 for the number of the tank crews of the three mentioned varieties and multiply that by 2162 the result is 8010.5, assuming of course that all personnel were in their tanks when destroyed.

For the artillery pieces, the Americans have declared that 1500 artillery pieces were destroyed. If we take that each



The Highway of Death: How many really died?

gun was manned by 8 military personnel, the result would be 12,000 fatalities. As for the number of personnel carriers destroyed, the number is 525. Each carrier has a crew of 3, and the capacity to carry 8

military cadres. If we multiply the number of carriers with that of the crew and military cadres, the number of deaths is 5775. That is of course, if we assume abstract conditions in which all cadres were in their

The Gulf War:

An assessment of the Iraqi military casualties

place, immobile even under battle conditions. Consequently, one can safely assume that the number of fatal Iraqi casualties is far lesser than the numbers calculated.

In the battles inside Kuwait, the Americans have killed 577 Iraqi soldiers, which they have buried subsequently, and the number of the Iraqi soldiers killed by the Arab forces is assumed to be far less than that since it is known, that the bloodiest battles involved the American soldiers.

One can give liberally, the number 200 Iraqi soldiers killed at the hands of their Arab brothers. Incidentally, no number of Iraqi war casualties has been released by any of the Arab countries involved in the alliance against Iraq.

As for the supposed mass burials of Iraqi troops under the ploughs of the American mine sweepers, I assume the numbers here are equally out of proportions. If the initial American intelligence reports indicated that the so-called Saddam Line was manned by 8000 Iraqi troops, then where did all the bodies vanish? The Iraqi army has found 44 buried soldiers, after the war, and the number of the Iraqi soldiers surrendering in the Saddam Line was 2000 soldiers.

The initial intelligence report looks like being highly inaccurate, for in the absence of the ghastly body count, the number of the Iraqi soldiers buried alive cannot be determined in any manner.

The question of the convoy of death, of fleeing Iraqi soldiers from Kuwait after the allies entry into the country, poses another problem in calculating the number of

deaths occurring. It is assumed that there were 4000 vehicles, mainly civilian, occupied on average, probably by two people, if there was any consideration for some lost from the wait. The death toll in this case would be on average 8000 casualties. Here again, the absence of dead bodies questions the credibility of such high numbers of fatalities.

According to the Pentagon sources, the number of Iraqi prisoners of war (POWs) was 71,000 cadres, of which 2000 personnel needed hospital treatment and not all from battle wounds, but many as a result of dehydration, and malnutrition. Probably, the most accurate number given by any source is in terms of the number of Iraqi army deserters which amounted to 150,000 cadres.

Roughly, the number of Iraqi military personnel killed in the war, does not amount to more than 35,000 cadres. The number becomes, even more significant, when one calculates the number of the wounded Iraqi military personnel. In the conventional military calculations, the number of dead to wounded is calculated at the ratio of 3 to 1.

Here, immediately one faces the problem of solving the riddle of the evacuation of the wounded Iraqi soldiers under heavy bombardment, and extraordinary conditions. The number of the military wounded, according to my calculations would be roughly, 105,000 cadres.

It is not my intention to criticize the capabilities and heroism of our Iraqi brothers, but nevertheless, one has to admit that it is a Third World army, with reasonable capacity, and limitation. To assume, that such an army can carry out the evacuation of so many of its wounded can be nothing but a work of fiction.

Alternatively, to assume that the majority of those wounded were aimlessly wandering in the desert, and did not surrender to the allies, would defy all laws of sense.

Therefore, I put it to you that, the number of Iraqi military casualties is far less than originally has been assumed, and even less than the number have suggested.

Khairi Janbek is a Jordanian historian and political analyst.

By Dr Abdel-Qader Yassine

SINCE THE tower of Babel, translators have been indispensable for human understanding. One of the busiest workers in the field is Dr Salma Khadra Al Janyusi, whose goal is to make more Arabic literature accessible to the English-speaking world.

Born in 1928 in Salt of a Palestinian father and a Lebanese mother, Al Janyusi grew up in Acre and latter in Jerusalem where she attended Schmidt's Girls' College.

In the fifties while still a student at the American University of Beirut, she left her imprint on the free verse movement in the Arab world. Her poetry was published in the leading literary journals of the period, including *Al Adab*, *Shir* and *Hiwar*.

Since the appearance of the first volume of poetry, *Al Awdah Min Al Nab' Al Halim* (Return from the Dreaming Fountain) (1960), Al Janyusi has published very little poetry. *Ar-Raf Al Rih* (The Soothsayer of the Wind), a volume scheduled to appear in the summer of 1967, has never been published. The Arab-Israeli war of that year made her suspend its publication.

By 1969, a mother of three, Al Janyusi was one of the first Arab women to earn a doctorate degree in modern Arabic literature from a Western university. For the past two decades Al Janyusi has lectured on Arabic literature in various universities in the Arab world, Europe and the United States where she is now living.

She is one of the Arab world's most distinguished literary personalities and is widely known for her poetry, literary criticism and scholarship. Dr Al Janyusi is author of the two-volume comprehensive critical history *Trends and Movements in Modern Arabic Poetry* (Leiden; Brill, 1977) and editor of *Modern Arabic Poetry: An Anthology* (New York: Columbia University Press).

She first saw the need for more and better literary translations into English while lecturing at American universities; from this came the idea of the



Al Janyusi: A forward-looking achievement

Project for Translation from Arabic, known as PROTA, which has since become her most forward-looking achievement.

PROTA is a loose network of translators and advisors. As its founder and director, Al Janyusi has overseen the translation of ten novels, seven single-author collections of short stories and poems and five important anthologies of poetry, fiction and drama from all over the Arab world. The fact that her main publishers in the United States have been university presses is testimony to the high standards she sets.

Besides being a fine poet and critic in her own right, her genius lies in selecting the right people for the various stages of translation. PROTA's standard procedure is to team two translators on each text, one bilingual and the other a poet or

writer whose native language is English, in order to balance the demanding (often conflicting) linguistic and literary requirements of good translation.

One of Al Janyusi's recent triumphs was the publication in the United States last year of *The Literature of Modern Arabia: An Anthology*. This large and authoritative volume offers, for the first time, a representative selection of the works of 95 of Arabia's best creative authors and poets.

It presents poetry, drama, and short stories from Saudi Arabia, Yemen and the rest of the Gulf states. Sponsored by King Saud University in Riyadh, which was represented by a distinguished editorial board, this anthology contributes to the difficult task of bridging the cultural gap between the contemporary Arab world and the English speaking world.

Salma Khadra Al Janyusi

A bridge of books

The Literature of Modern Arabia is a voyage of discovery for everyone involved in the project, and for no one more than the writers themselves. It reflects the panorama of life in the Arabian Peninsula, the outlook, aspirations and contradictions which govern people's behavior in times of great change, and is likely to modify many of the stereotyped attitudes and expectations of English-speaking readers.

Last year Al Janyusi edited *The Legacy of Muslim Spain*, a large volume of essays published to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the end of Muslim rule in *Al Andalus*. She is now editing a companion volume of the poetry and belles-lettres of the period.

But Al Janyusi's *Magnum Opus* is, no doubt, her *Anthology of Modern Palestinian Literature* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1992).

To the best of my knowledge, this unique and definitive volume offers the most ambitious compilation of Palestinian literary works in any language. No other general anthology of Palestinian or Arabic literature approaches the scope and the variety presented by Salma Al Janyusi. An anthology as comprehensive and encompassing a nature as this one is certainly lacking and will fill in a great gap in the field.

Presented here are translations of poems, stories and excerpts from novels of over seventy Palestinian writers and poets living in Israel, such as Emil Habibi, a laureate of the 1992 Israel Prize; in the Occupied Territories such as Hanan Ashrawi; and in the Diaspora, as well as works by Palestinian poets who write in English. Also included are personal narratives by Palestinian writers depicting the varied aspects of Palestinian life from the turn of the century to the present.

These images capture life in Palestine before the establishment of the Zionist state and

during the wars of 1948 and 1967, and vivify the ensuing calamities experienced by Palestinians in the Diaspora and under Israeli occupation. Foremost among the themes are nostalgia and loss of homeland, which the editor considers "the essence of the Palestinian experience." Other subjects, such as love and honor, are more universal. *The Anthology of Modern Palestinian Literature* offers an insightful look at the literature written by a nation in crisis.

Biographical sketches introduce the authors, and a chronology of modern Palestinian history provides background for some of the events and places referred to in the selections. The introductory section by the editor provides the reader with enough background information, in terms of historic events and comprehensive critical analysis of Palestinian literature during the 20th Century, to allow the easy assimilation of subsequent sections. This volume proves that even under great political stress, literary talents can thrive and grow to artistic maturity.

In view of the variety of themes and the number of writers and poets represented, this massive, well-edited, translated, and researched volume is a living monument to the Palestinian culture, now represented in English for the first time thanks to the unstinting labors of Salma Khadra Al Janyusi.

Far from a folkloric or exotic record, this anthology makes a significant contribution to Palestinian culture and puts it on par with the great names in world literature. An outstanding work of scholarship and taste, *The Anthology of Modern Palestinian Literature* is a volume to reward and inspire readers for many years to come.

Dr Abdel-Qader Yassine is a Palestinian researcher residing in Sweden.



● US General Robert B. Johnston commander of the United Nations Task Force (UNITAF) handing over to General Civi Bir the head of the United Nations peace-keeping force in a 30-minute ceremony, Tuesday, in Somalia. It ended American efforts by tens of thousands of troops from a score of countries to protect relief operations for the starving people as a result of the civil war and to disarm its warring factions. The Pale blue flag of the United Nations, was hoisted to flutter over the US embassy building, now headquarters of the United Nations Operations in Somalia II. In his farewell speech General Johnston praised the work of the multinational force, which have guarded food convoys and virtually ended the starvation, civil war, death by disease that claimed an estimated 350,000 lives last war.

The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

An independent political, economic and cultural weekly, published every Thursday in Amman by Media Services International (Info-Media).
Editorial & Advertising: Telephones 652-380, 645-380, Fax 648-298,
P.O. Box 9313, Amman - Jordan.

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Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

53 km, ça use...!!

● Quatre heures et cinquante-cinq minutes: c'est le temps qu'il a fallu au Français Philippe Ospital pour rejoindre l'hôtel Spa sur la mer morte en partant d'Amman au petit matin, vendredi dernier. Cinquante-trois kilomètres de course sur route (plus qu'un marathon!) parcourus en tête et en un temps record par notre expert agricole tricolore.

Cette première sportive était organisée par la joyeuse équipe du HHH (Hachemite Hasch House) célèbre pour ses joggings hebdomadaires arrosés de houblon... Jordaniens, Allemands, Canadiens, Anglais (etc...) avaient relevé le défi de cette course d'endurance. Sept sont arrivés à tenir la distance, exténués mais fiers de leur performance.

Par équipe, ce sont les Américains qui sont arrivés en tête. Les deux équipes françaises n'ont pourtant pas démerité. Coup de chapeau à Renan Fontaine, Laurent Delafosse, Xavier Ducourau, Christian Savard, Alain Maury, Gilles Channet et Bruno Rivalland! Philippe Ospital, lui, jure qu'on ne l'y reprendra plus. Mais rêve déjà du marathon de New-York...



Economie

Un marché porteur pour les PME

Bonne surprise pour les entreprises du Sud de la France en exposition la semaine dernière à Amman: le marché jordanien leur offre de nombreux débouchés. Bilan.

"J'AVAIS SOUS-ESTIMÉ le pays et ses habitants. On trouve, ici, des partenaires de très haut niveau, fiables et sérieux". Cette réflexion recueillie au détour d'un stand de l'exposition des entreprises du Sud de la France, la semaine dernière au Philadelphia hôtel, résume bien le sentiment partagé par les exposants à la découverte du marché jordanien.

Martine Germain, directeur-général de Breux-Board & Cie (BBC), a en effet toutes les raisons d'être satisfaite de son voyage à Amman. A la tête d'une PME leader en France pour le matériel hospitalier de stérilisation, elle a trouvé un marché très porteur pour ses produits. "Il y a de nombreux hôpitaux privés en cours de création et ils s'équipent du matériel le plus sophistiqué", explique-t-elle. De bonnes opportunités de contrat.

Toute aussi souriante, Françoise Nurit, enchaîne les démonstrations de ses appareils d'électrothérapie pour les Jordaniens curieux. Sa société, EIDE esthétique, propose des instituts de beauté clé-en-main et des équipements de pointe pour les centres de remise en forme. Comme Martine Germain et l'ensemble des exposants, elle est à la recherche d'un distributeur de ses produits, même si elle est déjà très contente de faire quelques ventes ponctuelles en direct.

Sur la quinzième de sociétés françaises présentes à l'exposition, ce sont surtout celles spécialisées dans l'hygiène et la beauté qui repartent avec les meilleures perspectives de contrat. Le plus satisfait est, sans nul doute, Jean-Claude Mille, directeur-général de Celatose. Cette entreprise se démarque d'ailleurs des autres par sa taille et son implantation internationale.



Plus de 600 personnes se sont pressées au Philadelphia hôtel pour découvrir les produits proposés par des PME du Sud de la France.

Celatose, spécialisée dans l'hygiène enfants, femmes et adultes, réalise 39% de son chiffre à l'exportation, mais était encore absente du marché moyen-oriental. "La surprise est de trouver ici des capitaux disponibles très importants et un engouement de nos interlocuteurs pour nos produits en l'absence de véritables concurrents sur le marché", affirme Jean-Claude Mille.

Plus que l'exportation, rendue difficile par le volume des couches et autres serviettes, la société cherche à terme à faire du transfert de technologie,

sous forme d'une joint-venture ou d'une création d'usine. C'est déjà bien parti. Pour trouver un distributeur, Jean-Claude Mille n'a eu que l'embaras du choix et il a entamé des discussions avec un producteur local pour une collaboration future.

"Tous ces contacts sont très encourageants. C'est un succès", confie Nadira Manchet, initiatrice de la manifestation. Avec son cabinet de conseil à l'export, S.A.M. Trade International, elle oriente, depuis trois ans, les entreprises françaises vers le Moyen-Orient. D'origine palestinienne avec sa famille à Amman, elle connaît bien le marché jordanien et détiend de précieux contacts. Mais, faire venir les

Français à Amman n'est pas facile.

"Les entrepreneurs français ont peur de voyager. Ils connaissent mal la région et rechignent à prendre des risques", déplore Nadira Manchet. "Mais, si tous ces exposants n'étaient pas venus, ils n'auraient pas fait d'affaires!" Point commun des présents: leur implantation dans la région de Montpellier. A remarquer, le caractère entièrement privé de cette initiative nullement soutenue par la chambre de commerce locale. Seul le service commercial français à Amman les a aidés de ses conseils.

Pour motiver les entreprises, le cabinet-conseil a fait miroiter les possibilités de rayonne-

ment sur toute la région à partir de la Jordanie. Pour beaucoup, le marché local de quatre millions d'habitants paraît trop réduit pour s'y engager. Mais, ces perspectives de rayonnement régional sont tout de même liées étroitement à la normalisation du commerce avec l'Irak et les Territoires occupés.

Autre obstacle: les fameux droits de douane. S'ils restent très élevés sur les voitures et les produits de luxe, ils sont cependant en constante régression dans le cadre du plan d'ajustement structurel soutenu par le FMI et la Banque mondiale. Un obstacle, en fait, aisément franchi.

Le point le plus positif reste la présence importante de liquidités et de devises dans le pays. Pas de souci de financement et un marché particulièrement bien adapté aux petites entreprises régionales sont les arguments mis en avant par le service commercial français. "Il y a de nombreux points communs entre les entreprises de province et les sociétés jordaniennes, comme leur taille, leur caractère familial...etc...", affirme Michel Duger, attaché commercial près de l'Ambassade de France. "Elles doivent saisir cette chance pour pénétrer le marché jordanien." La réussite de l'exposition de la semaine dernière démontre que ces paroles ne sont pas seulement des incantations. Des opportunités existent bel et bien ici pour ceux qui sont prêts à se lancer dans l'exportation au-delà du Marché unique.

Florent Chevolleau

Bénévolat

L'âge du conseil

Jeune retraité, Georges Dubar, est venu offrir ses talents de manager au Philadelphia hôtel pendant trois semaines. Une formule d'entraide économique à découvrir.



A la retraite, Georges Dubar est devenu consultant international bénévoles.

"MIS A la retraite à la suite de problèmes de santé, je me suis subitement senti devenir inutile après une activité professionnelle intense", explique Georges Dubar, 63 ans. "Pour sortir du trou, l'ECTI m'a permis de reprendre bénévolement un rôle de consultant. Et me voilà en Jordanie!" Depuis une dizaine d'années, cette association offre la possibilité à des managers retraités d'apporter leurs compétences à des entreprises françaises ou étrangères n'ayant pas la possibilité de s'offrir un consultant au prix fort.

Dans ce cadre, Georges Dubar vient de passer trois semaines au Philadelphia hôtel pour étudier et améliorer les conditions de restauration. C'est la première fois qu'un membre de l'ECTI effectue une mission en Jordanie. "Auparavant, j'avais fait de nombreuses consultations auprès d'entreprises en difficulté en France ainsi qu'une mission de deux mois en Chine", souligne Georges Dubar.

Ancien directeur général d'une compagnie de 4500 personnes, il fait ainsi profiter de ses compétences en matière d'organisation du travail, de gestion et de management. Une mission parfois délicate. "Ce n'est pas évident de se retrouver parachuté dans une entreprise et de pouvoir appréhender les problèmes", confie-t-il. "Comme consultant, vous n'êtes ni décideur, ni acteur."

Sa mission jordanienne a été, en tous cas, très positive: "J'ai été impressionné par la motivation des gens dans l'entreprise et par leur gentillesse. Si je n'ai pas la prétention d'apporter LA solution, je pense, au minimum, avoir enrichi le débat."

Aujourd'hui, Georges Dubar n'attend plus les missions de l'ECTI pour lui remonter le moral. Mais, il continue, convaincu de l'intérêt des actions bénévoles. "Si l'on veut que la société et le monde soient de l'ornière, il faut développer les contributions bénévoles croisées pour le bien de tous", assure le jeune retraité. Une philosophie généreuse qui peut trouver, la preuve, une application dans le milieu réputé pourtant sans pitié, des affaires.

F.C.

Jordanie

Express

RETOUR - Quatorze Palestiniens et leurs familles ont pu regagner les Territoires occupés après des années d'exil. Ce retour a donné lieu à des festivités sur le pont du roi Hussein et dans les Territoires où ils ont rejoint un groupe de quinze exilés autorisés à retourner chez eux, la semaine dernière. Une première depuis 1987.

REPORT - L'introduction de la très controversée taxe sur les ventes pourrait être reportée après le prochain remaniement ministériel. Cette taxe (entre 5% et 20% selon le produit) devait entrer en vigueur à partir du 1er mai et remplacer la taxe sur la consommation en place depuis deux ans.

RÉDUCTION - Le Premier ministre Zeid Ben Shaker a demandé aux services gouvernementaux de réduire de 5% leurs dépenses totales d'allocation pour l'exercice budgétaire de cette année. Cette

mesure d'augmenter les salaires des agents de ces services depuis le début de l'année.

ROUTES - 55% des conducteurs ont été, au moins une fois, impliqués dans un accident de la route. C'est le résultat d'une enquête de l'agence Petra sur un échantillon de trois cent personnes. 86% des conducteurs impliqués dans un accident sont des hommes, âgés en moyenne de 37 ans.

Projet

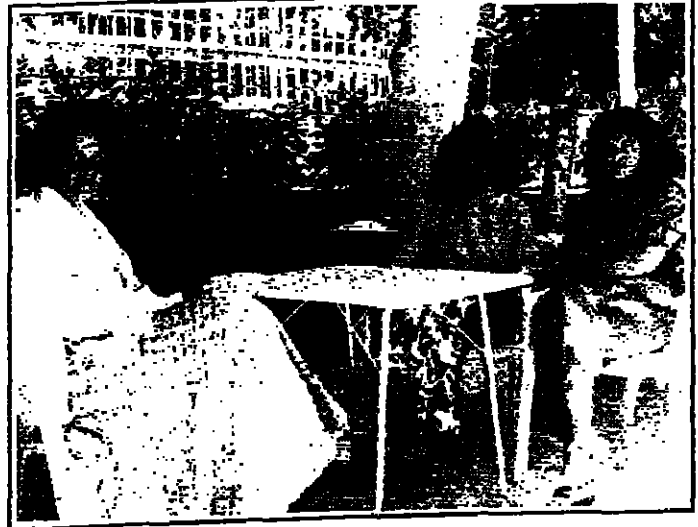
Des mosquées aux costumes, trois filles pour un périple

Conter l'histoire par le costume: c'est le but du tour de la Méditerranée entamé par trois Françaises. Une démarche originale de créer un costume par pays en s'inspirant d'une mosquée.

LILAH, MATHILDE et Muriel sont trois jeunes Françaises, entre 25 et 30 ans. Passionnées de costumes et d'histoire, elles ont commencé un périple autour de la Méditerranée depuis deux mois. Treize pays à découvrir et autant de villes et de mosquées à étudier. Etape cette semaine à Amman.

"Dans chaque ville, nous nous inspirons d'une mosquée pour créer un costume", explique Lilah. "L'architecture islamique est très riche, c'est une autre manière de parler de l'histoire à travers des costumes." Le partage des rôles est précis. Mathilde, styliste-modéliste, étudie la forme de la mosquée pour en tirer la ligne du vêtement. Muriel, costumière, se charge des ornements intérieurs pour créer les motifs. Lilah, costumière elle-même, fait un portrait photographique d'une femme rencontrée au hasard et rédige des textes historiques.

La finalité? Exposer ces costumes et photos, témoignages



Les trois "Méditerranéennes de l'Islam" ont choisi d'étudier la mosquée bleue lors de leur passage à Amman.

de leur périple, à Paris, au printemps prochain. L'institut du monde arabe s'est déjà montré très intéressé par ce projet au nom évocateur, "Les Méditerranéennes de l'Islam".

"L'idée m'est venue lors d'un voyage en Egypte", se rappelle Lilah. "J'ai eu le coup de foudre pour l'art islamique des mosquées du Caire et j'ai eu envie de l'exploiter à travers mon

mode d'expression qui est le costume." Cette démarche est loin d'être artificielle. "Lorsqu'on étudie l'histoire du costume, on trouve un grand parallèle avec l'histoire de l'architecture. Ce sont les mêmes couleurs, les mêmes formes qui sont privilégiées selon l'époque", ajoute-t-elle. Après la Turquie, la Syrie et le Liban, elles viennent de passer une dizaine de jours en Jordanie. Leur choix à Amman? La mosquée bleue Abdallah, contre toute attente. "Son architecture est vraiment très belle et très riche", explique Mathilde. "Elle est vraiment représentative de la ville et son plan montre un grand équilibre. Même, si elle est récente, on ne pouvait pas passer à côté."

Sa nouveauté présente aussi un intérêt. C'est l'une des deux seules grandes mosquées construites dans le bassin méditerranéen depuis dix ans. "Elle a de plus un rôle inédit de salle de spectacle-studio de télévision. A l'intérieur, on a le senti-

ment d'une grande piste aux étoiles déserte", ajoute Lilah.

Après chaque étape, les trois filles partagent leurs impressions et dévoilent leurs premières esquisses. "C'est formidable, nous sommes toujours d'accord sur les sensations à retenir", affirment-elles en chœur. Avant tout, leur travail naît de la sensibilité de chacune. C'est l'alliance de trois regards différents sur un monument, un lieu, une histoire.

"Par cette exposition, nous espérons présenter l'histoire de manière moins rébarbative, plus sensible. Le résultat devra être accessible et toucher un grand nombre de gens", souligne Lilah. Pour faire partager leurs sensations, elles espèrent que leurs costumes pourront tourner autour de la Méditerranée dans les différents centres culturels. Ici, nous sommes déjà curieux de découvrir la mosquée bleue transfigurée en vêtement... ■

F.C.

Cinéma

L'Europe grand écran

Sept films, deux séances par jour: le festival du film européen démarre au Centre culturel royal, à partir du dimanche 9. C'est le moment ou jamais de voir l'Europe sur grand écran. Gratuitement!

CETTE ANNEE, le public jordanien va avoir deux fois plus de chance de voir des films européens. Pour sa nouvelle édition, le festival européen du film propose deux séances par jour au Centre culturel royal (voir le programme ci-dessous). Sous le patronage du prince Hassan, la délégation de la Communauté européenne et les ambassades des Etats-membres ont concocté un programme brillant pour rendre hommage au 7e art.

Coup d'envoi, dimanche 9 mai, avec la projection du long-métrage belge: "Wait until spring, Bandini" avec Ornella Muti et Faye Dunaway. Cette séance inaugurale est uniquement sur invitation. Mais, dès le lendemain, le public pourra découvrir cette superbe fresque, gratuitement! Seul impératif, venir retirer sa place une demi-heure avant la projection au CCR.

Ces double séances quotidiennes, à 17h et 20h, vont permettre d'élargir le public qui était déjà venu nombreux l'an dernier. Les sept films présentés sont tous très différents. Illustration de la variété des



Les jeux cruels de l'amour et de la séduction pimentent le film français, "La discrète"

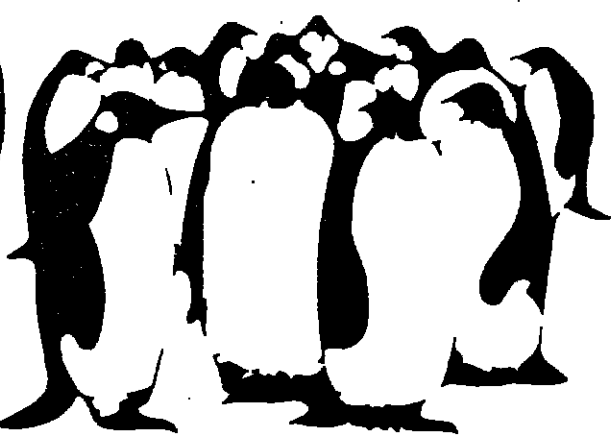
position de Fabrice Luchini, c'est un conte d'amour cruel et plein d'esprit. A ne rater sous aucun prétexte. ■

F.C.

Programme de la semaine

Wait until spring, Bandini (Belgique): Lundi 10 à 17h	La discrète (France): Mercredi 12 à 20h et vendredi 14 à 17h
Wir können auch anders (Allemagne): Lundi 10 à 20h et mardi 11 à 17h	Il giardino di ciliegi (Italie): Jeudi 13 à 20h et samedi 15 à 17h
La casa de Bernarda Alba (Espagne): Mardi 11 à 20h et mercredi 12 à 17h	Truly, madly, deeply (Royaume-Uni): Samedi 15 à 20h et dimanche 16 à 17h
	The vanishing (Pays-Bas): dimanche 16 mai à 20h

AROUND TOWN



● Abu Shaqra Trading Establishment lately introduced to the market two impeccable fragrances. In a press conference at the Marriott, Mr. Mil S. Ilich, International Development Manager of Loewe perfumes hinted that the *Aire Loewe* was designed to inspire the personality of the modern woman, and it also transmits another way of life, carefree, extrovert, dynamic, with a touch of sensitivity and fragility. While *Essencia Loewe* expresses the new masculine fragrance, with its dark green glass, frosting, gold printing, metal, leather, all natural: handled in small quantities, with care and with knowledge to the man who appreciates such a classical fragrance.



other pieces have a slight Indian flair. As a whole, the exhibition does not appear to be the work of two Americans, a remark which seemed to surprise both Mr and Mrs Hluch. As Mrs Hluch also pointed out, less tangible influences are also present in her latest weavings. She believes that in a subtle way, her experiences as a western woman living in Irbid has had an impact on her craft-work. "I think that Jordan has influenced my work in a way that any place would," Mrs Hluch, a mother of two, responded. "Some things you take from your environment, other things just seep into your work," she explained.



His Majesty King Hussein while meeting with Mr Yong Ak Roh, vice president of Gold Star Korea

Gold Star explain future prospectus



From left to right: Mr Mustafa Khalili, Mr Roh and Mr Mohammad Khalili

● On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers, and the first anniversary of opening Gold Star factories in Jordan, several delegations from Gold Star companies from Lebanon, Cyprus, Egypt, and other South East Asian nations visited Jordan to take part in the said celebrations. Heading the delegations was Mr Yong Ak Roh, the vice President of Gold Star Korea, who met with His Majesty the King at the noon of 29 April. So impressed was he by the meeting that he said, "Of all the kings and presidents that I met through the years, King Hussein seems to be the most enthusiastic about the economic development of his country".

Later in the afternoon of the same day, a press conference was held at the Forte Grand Hotel. Local and foreign newspapers attended the conference which laid down the accomplishments of the company and the future plans that will work their way for the development of Jordan's hi-tech industry, as well as uplifting the image of the Jordanian market and its ability to export the products to other nations. Gold Star Jordan exported some of its products to Russia; a remarkable achievement in its first year of operation. Mr Mustafa Darwish Al-Khalili, chairman of the board of directors of Gold Star Jordan, along with Mr Mohammad Darwish Al-Khalili, General Manager of Gold Star Jordan, highlighted the main products of the corporation which range from televisions to no-frost refrigerators to chest freezers to heaters, and future plans to manufacture computers, telephones and facsimile machines.

Later that night, the corporation hosted a dinner banquet at the Forte Grand Ball Room attended by almost hundreds businessmen and their families to celebrate the occasion.

● USAir will add two new destinations to its flight schedule from Philadelphia International Airport on 9 June, 1993 as it begins nonstop service to Seattle and San Diego. "This new transcontinental service shows USAir's commitment to adding attractive new markets to the schedule of flights available from Philadelphia hub, USAir currently operates 205 daily jet and 110 daily USAir Express departures.

Philadelphia International Airport for the benefit of local customers as well as our connecting hub passengers," said Richard Miller, USAir's Philadelphia district sales manager. At its Philadelphia hub, USAir currently operates 205 daily jet and 110 daily USAir Express departures.

USAir

USAir begins with you



● The Amman's Player Orchestra, which is due to hold a concert on Saturday, 8 May at the RCC at 8:00 pm, consists of 25 players and a vocalist. They play different conventional instruments including string, wind, brass and percussion instruments. Their style is a mixed bag of classical, jazz, and orchestrated Arab music. It is worth mentioning that this is the first band of its kind to be registered at the Ministry of Culture last 17 August 1992.

Agenda

EXHIBITIONS

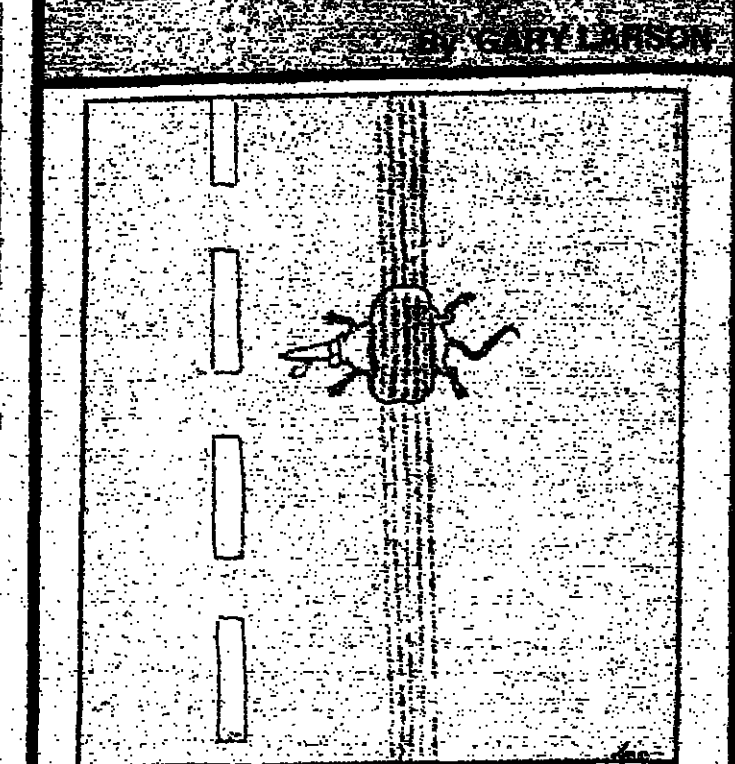
● The Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation is hosting an exhibition of paintings by Salem Al Dabbagh, Himat M. Ali and Karim Rissan on Monday 10 May at 6:00 pm.

● Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali will inaugurate Suba Katibah Noursi's exhibition on Saturday 8 May at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

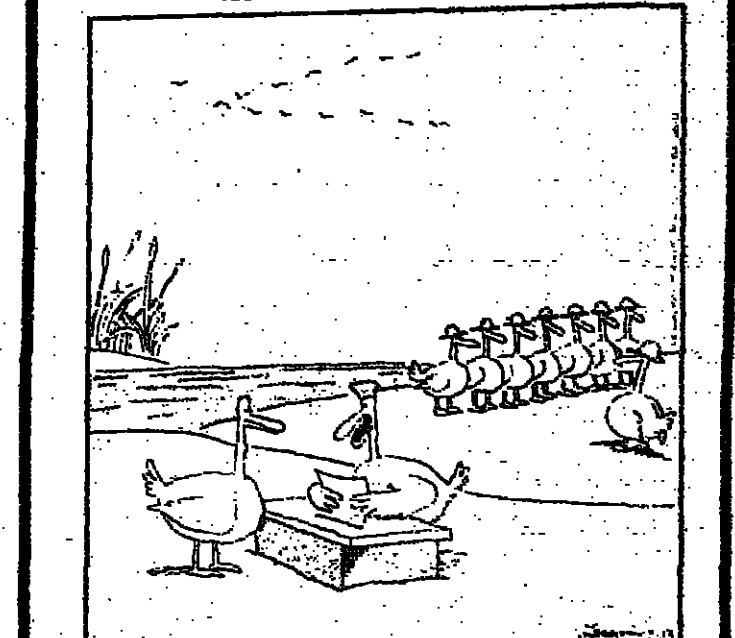
● Youssef Abdelké is currently exhibiting his paintings at the Balqa Art Gallery. Exhibition will continue until 11 May.

● Ahmad Nawash's exhibition of paintings will be opened on Sunday, 25 April at the French Cultural Center. It will continue

THE FAR SIDE



Scenes that make a crow smile



"Can't use you, son. ... says here your feet aren't flat."



A tragedy occurs off the coast of a land called Honah-Lee.



Scene from "Insurance Salesman of the Opera."

until 12 May.

FILMS

● The European Film Festival opens on Sunday, 9 May at 8:00 pm with the Belgian film 'Wait Until Spring, Bandini' (By invitation only). Other films to be shown are No More Mr Nice Guy (Germany), The House of Bernarda Alba (Spain), The Discreet Lady (Italy), The Cherry Orchard (Italy), Truly, Madly, Deeply (UK), The Vanishing (Netherlands). See page 9 for full details.

● The American Center will screen Bonnie and Clyde on Thursday, 6 May at 6:00 pm.

LECTURES

● The Friends of Archaeology will host a lecture at the RCC, Saturday, 8 May, by Professor Edoardo Borzatti von Lowenstern on The Map of Jebel Amud in the Desert of Southern Jordan.

● Dr Abdul Kareem Khalifeh will run a lecture entitled The Arabic language: Reality and Ambition at the Arabic Language Consortium near Al Jam'ah Mosque on Saturday, 8 May at 5:00 pm.

BASKETBALL

● If you're looking for a lot of years and wows try not to miss the Harlem Globetrotters' amazing show, coming your way on 6 May. Tickets, costing JD10 a piece, are available at Aramex, New York New York and Hotel Intercontinental Jordan.

CONCERT

● The Amman's Players Orchestra will present an evening of music on Saturday, 8 May, at 8:00 pm at the RCC.

Jordanian colors find their place in the works of an American weaver

Special to The Star

"WEAVING IS becoming a lost art," said Margaret Hluch, a woman experienced with the loom. "It's difficult to become known as a weaver," she explained, adding that it is not a high profile art form and is seldom funded by the US Endowment for the Arts.

In the US, pottery is no longer considered art, began Kevin Hluch, currently a Fulbright-Hayes lecturer in ceramics at Yarmouk University. Because his finished product is not solely aesthetic, Mr Hluch's work as a potter is considered a craft. With much regret he added, "There is an attitude these days that crafts are not art."

As the Hluch's mourn the decline in the artistic value placed on crafts in the American art scene, their exhibition, 'Fragments: Weaving and Works on Paper', currently on display at the American Center, is enough to convince viewers that crafts are in fact an integral and inseparable part of art. A contrasting melange of intricacy and beauty, the exhibition highlights the skill employed by these two crafts people, who should be referred to as artists.

Unfortunately for Mr Hluch, and for the viewer, the exhibition does not include samples of his training as a ceramist. Lack of materials at Yarmouk University's Art Department made it impossible for the American-born potter to put together a collection to be displayed in Jordan. Nevertheless, Mr Hluch's contribution to the exhibition effectively communicates his dedication to ceramics and extensive experience as a potter.

Substituting the clay medium with conte and carbon pencil sketches, he has not strayed far away from his craft. With a little imagination, the viewer can picture the pottery, which would have been on display if the artist had access to the materials of his trade.

As a potter, Mr Hluch feels at home in Jordan. His sketches, a study of the ancient pottery so often found throughout the Kingdom's many archaeological sites, seems to confirm his connection to the country. "There is evidence of it (pottery) everywhere in Jordan. It's reassuring to see these antiquities and how important they once were," he explained.



Mr Hluch also identified his connection to Jordan in metaphorical terms. "People ask me to describe Jordan. For me it's a land of contrast — bright lights casting dark shadows. In a sense, that's the nature of my work," he said. His sketches include a series of individual pottery jugs, whole and detailed, with shadows looming below each base. The sketches are accompanied by reproduction of ancient fragments featured underneath each work.

Going to various archaeological sites in Jordan inspired Mr Hluch to duplicate uncovered shards, or what the potter describes as "Reconstruction from deconstruction." The

drawings are actually imaginative reconstructions based on his research of ancient pots.

"It's my idea of what these fragments may have looked like," Mr Hluch added.

While the sketches of pottery, both whole and fragmented, are characterized by light and dark contours, Mrs Hluch's weavings add a splash of color and vigor to the exhibition. The weavings, most of which were spun in Irbid during the last seven months, bear the mark of the artist's time spent in Jordan. They also reveal traces of other regions: many of Mrs Hluch's vibrantly colored silk threads seem to be influenced by two years spent in Kenya, while

quite natural. After several years of studying in Eastern Europe, he developed a strong feel and liking for a Slavic temperament in music. Agnes Bashir, Ali's piano accompanist, describes Rondo as "A composition written in the style of Shostakovich and Khachaturyan". Bright and jolly, the piece is splashed with daring colors and is quite "Flashy" and "Showy," according to the musicians.

Ali Shawki is a busy clarinet teacher and a proud father of a two months-old baby. "My life now has gained a new dimension", he says, looking happily but somewhat tired. "It has also brought about sleepless nights!" Enduring his baby's "crying concerts" can definitely be more difficult and tiring than playing his own clarinet concerts.

Apart from piano accompaniment, Agnes Bashir performed solo during the recital. She presented Polonaise by Chopin in C minor, Fantasia in D minor by Mozart and three Preludes by Gershwin.

Being a great fan of American Jazz, Blues and other trends of modern music, Agnes favours Gershwin most since he brilliantly incorporated the essentials of jazz into modern classical music.

Carefully selected programs, which also accommodated personal preferences by the two musicians, was a sure token of the success of the recital. ■

A flare for the rare and original

By Mary Denis
Special to The Star

APRIL WAS an exceptionally busy musical month for Amman. At a rate of one concert every three to four days, the National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation presented last month diverse music programs including foreign and local musicians. The Amman audience, having quite a selection of musical concerts to choose from, was able to attend musical events featuring Arabic, classical and opera music.

In a dynamic program, Agnes Bashir, piano, and Ali

Shawki, clarinet, played various works by Vivaldi, Mozart, Chopin, Poulenc, Kromer, Gershwin and Karadimceff.

The program of the recital was unmistakably marked by the musicians' flair for the rare and original. The musical pieces they chose to play in the first part of the concert are often unjustly overlooked by many performers, let alone rarely performed. Giving their all to these beautiful compositions, the two musicians played complete Sonata in G minor by Vivaldi and a complete two part Concerto in ES Major by Czechoslovakian composer Francis Kromer.

As far as Shawki is concerned, the clarinet is the best musical instrument. "I love the clarinet for the beautiful wide range of sound," he says. "It has beautiful dynamics and each register has its own colour ranging from rich bass tones to the high tension tones of a flute. The clarinet always has a solo part to play in an orchestra", Ali observes proudly.

Ali's pursuit of an artistic career is no surprise, since he comes from a well-known family of artists; his father is a famous Iraqi actor/script-writer, his sister is a well-known actress and his brother is also a musician.

His love for the clarinet started at the age of seven, when his parents took him to the Baghdad School of Music for an audition. After a long and thorough examination, which included not only a musical try-out but also a medical check-up, it was discovered that Shawki possessed a strong chest, teeth and good musical fingers. The examination board's decision was to accept him to study the clarinet. Later, his skill led him to travel to Bulgaria to further his education.

Ali Shawki's choice to play a musical piece by Bulgarian composer Boris Karadimceff is

BRITISH LADIES OF AMMAN MAY FAIR (IN AID OF JORDANIAN CHARITIES)

Friday May 7, 1993, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

In the Gardens of HE the British Ambassador's Residence

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY
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WHITE ELEPHANT STALL
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Entrance: Adults JD 1.00 Children JD 0.25

مكتبة الأمل

The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on
JTV from
8 — 14 May

ENGLISH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

8:30 — Special Program: A Nation and a King
9:00 — Forever Green
9:30 — Saturday Variety Show
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Feature Film, 'Fatal Friendship'

SUNDAY

8:30 — Special Program
9:10 — The Good Guys, Part II
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Voltaire: Ce Diable d'Homme

MONDAY

8:30 — Special Program
9:10 — Dinosaur: Tale of a Bone
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Jordan Weekly
10:40 — Street Justice. Friends step to help another friend from her husband's abuse.

TUESDAY

8:30 — Special Program
9:10 — Forever Green. Jack and Harriet are offered to become partners in a lumberjack company.
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Film: 'Mission of the Shark'. The story of the Indianapolis: the navy ship that carried the components of the A-bomb to Guam during the 2nd World War

WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Chance in a Million
9:15 — UEFA Cup Final: Borussia Dortmund Vs Torino.
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Continuation of the second half of the match
11:00 — The Gravy train

THURSDAY

8:30 — Special Program
9:10 — Quantum Leap



The Good Guys, Sunday, at 9:10

10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Movie of the Week, 'Absolute Strangers'. Starring Henry Winkler.

DIMANCHE

5:40 — Les Clés de Fort Boyard
7:00 — Le Journal
7:15 — Le Journal de l'Histoire

LUNDI

6:00 — Joseph Balsamo
7:00 — Le Journal
7:15 — Magazine Sportif

MARDI

5:30 — Omnisciences. The science of genetics.
6:35 — Maguy
7:00 — Le Journal
7:15 — Ushiaia

MERCREDI

6:00 — Le Vol du Kangourou
7:00 — Le Journal
7:15 — French Varieties

JEUDI

5:30 — Pif et Hercule
5:45 — Superchamps. A game show that gathers four European children from different nations in a contest.
6:15 — L'Ecole des Fans
7:00 — Le Journal
7:15 — Fusion

VENREDI

5:30 — Navaro
7:00 — Le Journal
7:15 — French Varieties

FRENCH PROGRAM

SAMEDI

6:00 — Les Aventures de L'espace
6:30 — Envoyé Spécial.
7:00 — Le Journal
7:15 — Fenêtre Sur

Programs on Jordan's Airwaves

RJ 96.04MHZ

SATURDAY*

18:00 — The Top Twenty (UK)
19:30 — News Bulletin, Date with a Star: Seduction
20:00 — On stage: Andy Sheppard
21:00 — Play of the Week: The Lady from the Sea
22:00 — Pop Session
23:00 — Pop Wagon: The Beatles Story

SUNDAY

11:00 — Pop Wagon: The Beatles Story
14:00 — News Desk, Science Report: Preventing blindness, aging chromosomes, flavour synthesis.
18:00 — Listener's Choice
19:30 — Date with a Star: Adamski

MONDAY

11:00 — Talking About Music: Hans Hutter
17:00 — Special Feature: The Great River Shanghai
18:00 — Sports Round-up
19:00 — News Bulletin, Date with a Star: Cheb Khaled

TUESDAY

17:00 — Special Feature: The Great River Shanghai
19:00 — News Bulletin, Date with a Star: Adeva

WEDNESDAY

14:30 — Now Music Profile: The 1992 chart
18:30 — Science Report
19:00 — Date with a Star: Air Supply

THURSDAY

11:00 — Comedy: The Best of Bentine
14:30 — My Music. A musical quiz.
17:00 — Talking About Music: Krystian Zimerman. Gary Karr
18:00 — Top Twenty (UK)



Tracey Chapman: Singing for a cause

FRIDAY

11:00 — Listener's Choice
13:00 — Pop Wagon: The Beatles' Story
17:00 — Country Music
18:00 — On Stage: Andy Sheppard
19:00 — News Edition, Date with a Star: Paula Abdul
20:00 — Old Favorites
21:00 — 30 Minute Theater: Clean State
22:00 — Now Music Profile: 1992 Charts
23:00 — Classical Concerts: Works by Beethoven

PROGRAMMES de RFJ

RJ 90.00HZ

SAMEDI

7:00 — Croissant Chaud Chansons françaises, horoscope, infos pratiques...
7:30 — Les Informations (suite)
7:40 — Croissant Chaud (suite)
8:50 — Parler au quotidien
8:56 — Les titres de l'actualité

8:56 — Les titres de l'actualité
9:00 — Musique classique

DIMANCHE

7:00 — Croissant Chaud Chansons françaises, horoscope, infos pratiques...
7:30 — Les Informations (suite)
7:40 — Croissant Chaud (suite)
8:30 — Perspectives Scientifiques
8:50 — Parler au quotidien
8:56 — Les titres de l'actualité
9:00 — Musique classique

JEUDI

7:00 — Croissant Chaud Chansons françaises, horoscope, infos pratiques...
7:30 — Les Informations (suite)
7:40 — Croissant Chaud (suite)
8:30 — Regards sur la France 4 reportages sur l'actualité française
8:56 — Les titres de l'actualité
9:00 — Musique classique

VENREDI

7:00 — Croissant Chaud Chansons françaises, horoscope, infos pratiques...
7:30 — Les Informations (suite)
7:40 — Croissant Chaud (suite)
8:30 — Filigrane Un thème français et son vocabulaire
News Bulletin, Date with a Star: Jason Donovan

European Film Festival opens in Amman

Amman's annual feast of European film begins on 9 May when the 1993 European Film Festival gets underway at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC). A special feature of this year's event will be double screenings of the films with each film being shown at 8.00 in the evening and again at 5.00, generally the next afternoon. The double screenings are a response to the extraordinary popularity of the film festival in previous years and they will increase the possible audiences and at the same time give them more flexibility in their viewing times.

This year's program of seven feature films again gives a flavor of the cultural diversity of Europe while at the same time crossing, literally and figuratively, many borders.

The festival opens with a Belgian/Italian/US joint production, *Wait Until Spring, Bandini* which explores the immigrant experience in the America of the 1920s. From the Netherlands there is *The Vanishing* a tale of mystery as a young Dutch couple travel south through France for their summer holidays.

The Italian contribution crosses borders of time and space to Russia for Chekov's classic, *The Cherry Orchard*, while the British film stays at home but tackles the ultimate border with a whimsical ghost story, *Truly, Madly, Deeply*.

The three remaining films also stay at home to explore universal social themes. Spain with a film version of the Lorca classic *The House of Bernarda Alba*, the French *La Dis-*

crete is a story of love spurned and avenged while Germany's *Wir können auch anders* follows the adventures of two young men in pursuit of their inheritance and new life.

All films are either in English or have English sub-titles. Please note the 9 May performance of *Wait Until Spring, Bandini*, is by invitation only. Tickets for all other performances will be available half an hour before each performance.

The following is the program of the European Film Festival:

Wait until spring, Bandini (Belgium): Sunday, at 8:00 pm and Monday at 5:00 pm (The same times apply for the rest of the movies)

Wir können auch anders (Germany): Monday and Tuesday

La casa de Bernarda Alba (Spain): Tuesday and Wednesday

La discreta (France): Wednesday and Friday

Il giardino di ciliegi (Italy): Thursday and Saturday

Truly, madly, deeply (UK): Thursday and Sunday

The vanishing (Netherlands): Sunday



Recommended Listeners



Conscience: The Beloved

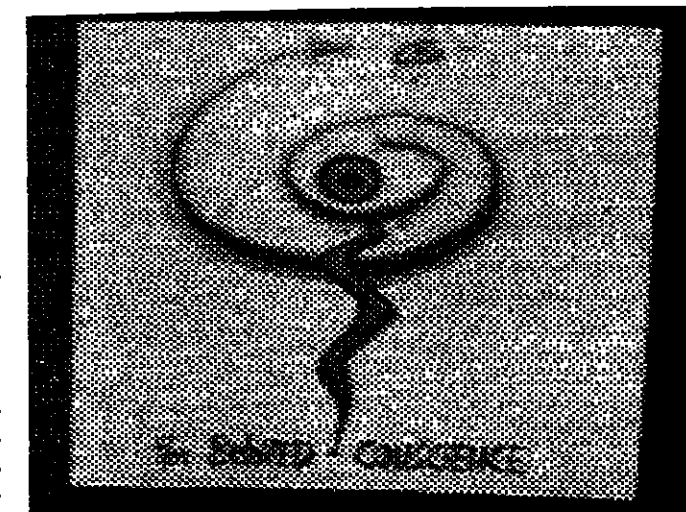
THE BELOVED has released yet another new album full of psychedelic electronic bleeps and hypnotic grooves that will take you on a trip to fantasy land. Their previous album, *Blissed Out*, was a remix of their debut album *Happiness*. The new album, *Conscience*, reveals Beloved's evolution to a more commercial sounding groove.

But that is not to say that the band has slipped into the abyss of commercial music; they have retained their psychedelic feel and have added a new dimension to the music.

The third track on the album, *Outerspace Girl*, features a hypnotic house beat

with electronic notes randomly hovering over sexy deep vocals. The single, *Sweet Harmony*, although certainly commercial, retains the band's feel and presence. The chorus ascends into a climax with female backing vocals that add atmosphere and 'space' to the male vocals.

Paradise Found, the first track on the B side, features for the first time ever in Beloved's history an organ solo shimmering on top of a house oriented rhythm. Frankly, it sounded fake to my ears the first time around, but now I am less dubious about it. Also the guitar has been used in a sense that differs from previous projects. The guitar has been used with distortion to give a big and fat, although not noisy, sound. May be the worst thing about the album is that it clearly attempts to rehash the successful sound of *Happiness*; the band's first



album. But one might also say that *The Beloved* has become conscience to market needs, presented in a lovely psychedelic style by them!

If you're really interested, you can find the album at Ster-

eo Firas in Jabal Al Hussein. This album is definitely a thumbs up winner. You won't regret it!

Haitham Ibrahim

The National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation
and
The American Center
present
APPLE HILL CHAMBER PLAYERS
In concert
In the program pieces by Hoffmeister, Beethoven, Schumann and others.
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University of Jordan
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- Philadelphia Hotel, Tel. 663100
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- The American Center, Tel. 820101
- The National Music Conservatory, Tel. 687620

The Star
Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly
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ARIES (21 March-19 April): You'd probably rather do anything than go to work. Find hidden money by talking to the person in charge of loans.

TAURUS (20 April-20 May): Your mental agility will improve. This gives you an advantage all week. Use it to help you get something you want.

GEMINI (21 May-21 June): An excellent week for romance, and not bad for working. Write papers and catch up on your reading, too.

CANCER (22 June-22 July): It might be hard to concentrate, due to the chattering of a friend or lively group. Tell them to take it somewhere else.

LEO (23 July-22 August): You should be able to soak up information, so do your most difficult job early.

VIRGO (23 August-22 September): Don't spend too much on luxuries. You should be very efficient early in the week.

LIBRA (23 September-23 October): A good week for working on a creative project. If that's your job, you'll be in heaven! It's also good for shopping.

SCORPIO (24 October-21 November): Take care of bureaucratic paperwork. You'll be in top form, although you may not feel like working.

SAGITTARIUS (22 November-21 December): A club meeting could bring you together with a new best friend. Romance could result, if appropriate.

CAPRICORN (22 December-19 January): One of your associates could be even more unreasonable than usual. Point out the areas that might not work.

AQUARIUS (20 January-18 February): You may feel like you have one foot nailed down all week. Just do the best you can.



Caniggia pays for his headed goal which knocked Italy out in 1990 World Cup semifinals

ITALIAN COURT ruled a 13-month-suspension against the AS Roma's Argentine striker Claudio Caniggia for drug abuse last week. Caniggia was suspended immediately by the Italian Football League after tested positive for cocaine, following Roma-Napoli league match March 21.

The long-haired Roma forward is the second Argentine international to be caught up in a cocaine scandal in Italy in recent years after Diego Maradona was banned for 15 months for a positive cocaine-test when he was playing for Napoli in March 1991.

"Caniggia and me were the victims of an Italian conspiracy," said Maradona, who last year left Italian club Napoli to join Sevilla. "When I said they would make us pay dearly for eliminating Italy from the World Cup, it was not a whim

said Caniggia. "But I'm looking forward to continuing my career with Roma and with my national team. I hope I could play with Argentina in the 1994 World Cup in the United States."

The second test April 1, confirmed the presence of traces of cocaine in the sample, but lawyer Carlo Taormina, who represents AS Roma, said that the tests indicated the drug had been taken a few days before the game and was thus not intended to enhance Caniggia's performance.

"AS Roma will appeal the suspension and a 100-million-lire imposed by the Italian Soccer Tribunal on the club for indirect responsibility in the case," said a team official.

It was not the first time Roma have been caught in drugs scandals. The club were rocked by the one-year ban on Italian star Andrea Carnevale back in 1990 for failing a dope test and current president Giuseppe Ciarrapico is in jail awaiting possible trial on corruption charges. River Plate

was also investigated for cocaine use in 1989, soon after arriving in Verona from the Argentine club, but no charges were laid.

Caniggia's lawyer hopes he could persuade the court to reduce their suspension, and his manager Settimio Aloisio asserts he will overcome this tragic event.

"He's upset, of course," Aloisio said. "It's a disaster. But he is adamant he will return."



Caniggia



Maradona

but the truth."

Caniggia, who joined Roma for some \$7.5 million, less than a year ago, is best remembered by Italian fans for his headed goal which sent hosts Italy spinning to a World Cup semi-finals exit at the hands of Argentina in 1990.

"Now they are making Caniggia pay for the goal which knocked Italy out," added Maradona.

The 13-month-ban would leave the 26-year-old Caniggia available for the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States, but Caniggia hopes an appeal can reduce his suspension.

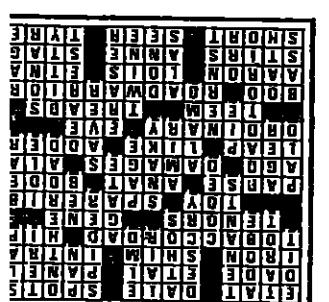
WORD WISE

Q: Would you be kind enough to settle a disagreement between my sister and me? Can I use war for, and wait interchangeably? I say it is OK to do this, but my sister says it isn't correct.

A: Technically yes. They both mean to stay in one spot until something you anticipate occurs. Wait, however, is more formal and literary. People no longer use it in spoken English.

Send questions or comments for Word Wise in P.O. Box 4367, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4367.

Crossword Puzzle



Sports FLASH

◆ Jordan's national team defeated Bahrain 1-0 in a friendly match that took place at Al Hassan stadium in Irbid last week. Jerjes Tados scored Jordan's goal in the second half of the match.

◆ Driving to team orders. Qatar's Saeed Al Hajri clinched the 20th international win of his career with a thrilling final day's performance in the 1993 Rally of Tunisia.

◆ Italian volleyball teams were indefinitely suspended from competition last week, by the International Volleyball Federation.

◆ Russia's Olga Shousareva, 23, set a new world record of 10.831 seconds for the 100m

sprint at the Olympic Velodrome last week. The previous record of 11.101 seconds was set by her compatriot Galina Enukhina at the same venue in July 1992.

◆ Diego Maradona's physiotherapist, Fernando Signorini, has advised the Argentine star to quit football before his back injury gets worse. Maradona's back problem is giving him a lot of pain, and he "should think seriously about retirement," said Signorini in the Spanish daily El Mundo, last week.

◆ Jiri Dolezal broke a 1-1 tie early in the third period and Martin Hostak added goal with 15 seconds left as the Czech Republic beat Finland 3-1 last week, to win Pool B at the Ice Hockey World Championship.

◆ Nigel Mansel underwent minor back surgery on the injury he sustained in an April 3 crash at Phoenix International Raceway.

MAGICWORD

HOW TO PLAY: Read the list of words. Look at the puzzle. You'll find these words in all directions — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backwards. Draw a circle around each letter of a word found in the puzzle, then strike it off the list. Circling it will show a letter has been used but will leave it available should it also form part of another word. Find the big words first. When letters of all listed words are circled, you'll have the given number of letters left over. They'll spell out your MAGICWORD.

MORNING RADIO (Sol.: 9 letters)
A-Audience; C-Call-in, Celebrity, Comic, Contest, Converse; D-Discuss; E-Embarrass, Explain; F-Funny; G-Gall, Goof, Guest; H-Host, Humor; I-Info, Interview; J-Joke; K-Kid around; L-Laugh, Listener; M-Mischief, Mock; N-News; O-Observe, Opinion; P-Frank; Q-Question; R-Remark, Report; S-Scam, Shocking, Show, Silly, Star; T-Talk, Tease, Traffic; W-Weather, Wild, Witty

This Week's Answer: BROADCAST

EKOJGNIKCOHSWEN
BYTTIWSSARRABME
REHTAEWSSUCSIDX
HCMROFNIG
GOIRONILACYOIRL
UNNMAMDIHLCLMAA
AVTROOWKILALUMI
LEEEOECNEIDUAHEN
ORRNGKVVSTROPERO
BSVECONTESTRGT
SEITUHOSTARAUST
EMESTRAFFICNEHS
RAWIOPINIONKSOE
VCELEBRITYSTTWU
ESAETKIDAROUNDQ

World Cup qualifying Bergkamp snatched the draw for Dutch and Cantona gave France the victory

SUBSTITUTE PETER van Vossen fired a penalty goal with six minutes left to play as the Netherlands hit back to tie England 2-2, last week, in a World Cup qualifying soccer match in Wimbley, England.

England seemed headed for a victory and another major step toward next year's finals in the United States. But Dennis Bergkamp outpaced England defender Des Walker, who grabbed the Dutch striker's shirt inside the penalty area. The Danish referee, Peter

Mikkelsen, pointed to the penalty spot and Van Vossen scored the equalizer.

Earlier, John Barnes scored on a free kick after only 65 seconds, and David Platt got his 18th goal in England's colors to give his team a 2-0 lead in the 23rd minute. Bergkamp scored for the Dutch in the 34th.

England squandered several great chances to land the knockout punch. As a result, Norway, which beat Turkey last week, stays atop the Group 2 standings, with nine points, while England and the Dutch

have eight.

In Paris, two goals from Eric Cantona gave France the victory. Cantona, who had cancelled out an early goal from the penalty spot by Martin Dahlin, struck the winner with eight minutes left to keep France firmly at the top of European qualifying Group 6, two points ahead of Bulgaria.

The teams seemed headed for a 1-1 draw until Cantona sprinted ahead of the two Swedish defenders to volley in a long pass from Jocelyn Angloma. Cantona timed his right footed boot perfectly. Swedish goalie

Thomas Ravelli was able to partially deflect it but not enough. The ball crept into the cage just inside the left post.

Dahlin scored in the 14th minute on a mistake by the French defence, on a long pass downfield. French defender Basile Boli headed the ball to goal Bernard Lama. But it was too far to the side and Lama could not catch it. Dahlin out-musced Lama to the ball and nudged a shot that just caught the corner of the goal.

France tied it in the 41st minute on a penalty. David Ginola was pulled down in the penalty area by Patrick Andersson. Cantona evened the match just four minutes before intermission.



Cantona

New happy nests for Borg and Becker



Borg / Kari

◆ TENNIS

champion Boris Becker officially announced his engagement to Miss Barbara 'Feltus' Ferbs at the Hotel de Paris in Monaco last week. His parents were seated right next to the happy couple. Coach Ion Thrac and new sponsor, clothing magnet Mr Lotto were to be seen on Becker's right.

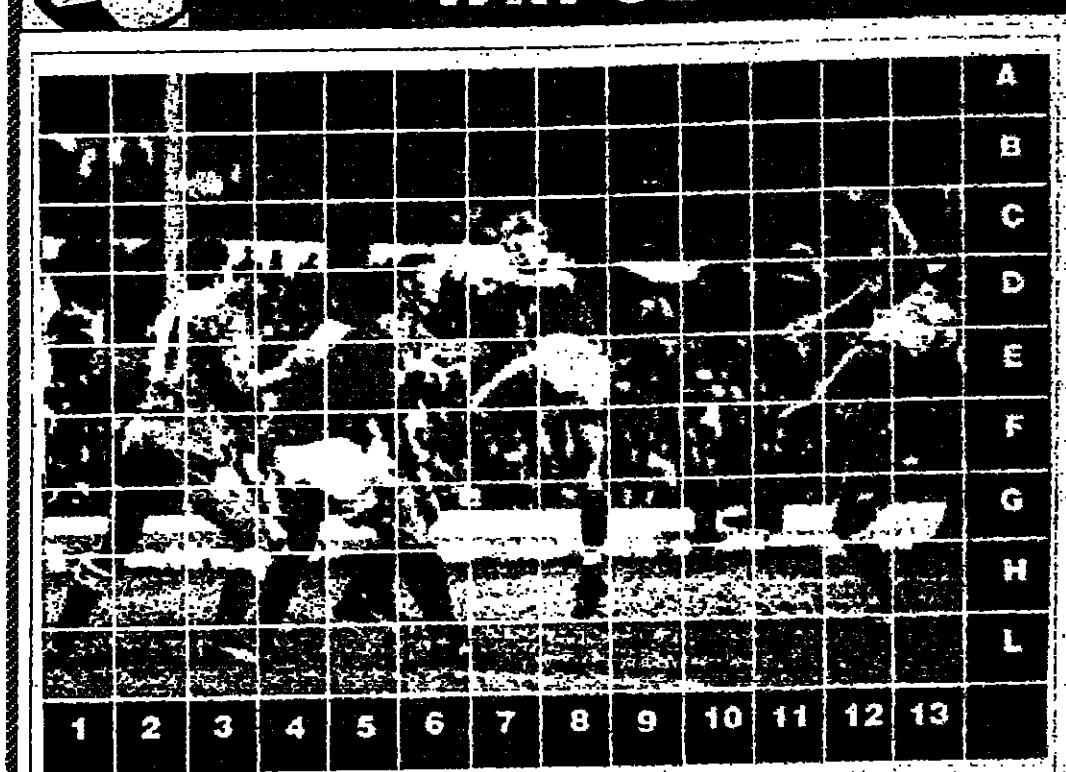
Also, Tennis super star Bjorn Borg was having lunch with his new fiancée Kari Bernardt, a beautiful blonde at the Monte Carlo Tennis Club in Houston

Texas. The happy couple has just moved to Borg's new apartment in Monaco.



Becker / Ferbs

Find the ball and win JD 10!



★ TO ENTER..... Decide which grid position the ball is in this week (it could be in any square), then send your answer with the competition coupon to The Star.

If you are correct you will be entered into our weekly competition and win JD 10.

COUPON No. ()

NAME

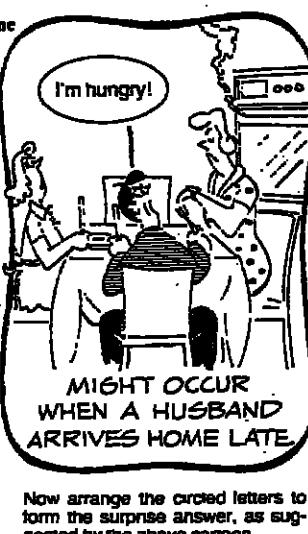
ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Scrambled Word

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LAWRB
CUNEL
TUNFAL
OSMACT



Answer here: A

Bridge

By Tannah Hirsch
Safe Might Be Sorry

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K J 2
♥ 9 4
♦ K J 7 2
♣ K 7 6

WEST
♠ Q 5 3
♥ K 6
♦ 10 9 8 3
♣ Q J 10 2

EAST
♠ 10 8 7 4
♥ Q J 10 2
♦ Q 6
♣ 8 5 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Opening lead: Queen of ♠

It is all very well to have an intimate knowledge of all the techniques available to you as declarer or defender. They will not be of much use if you do not master when to apply them.

You reach three no trump in quick time. West makes his normal lead of the queen of clubs, and you are faced with your first technical problem: Should you duck the first trick, or not?

Take a pat on the back from us if

you decided that it is dangerous to duck! You might not be able to stand a heart shift, so don't give the defenders the opportunity of finding it.

Now you have to decide how to tackle the diamonds. Should you take the safety play of cashing the king-ace and leading toward the jack, or should you take the finesse? Move to the top of the class if your answer is that you do not know!

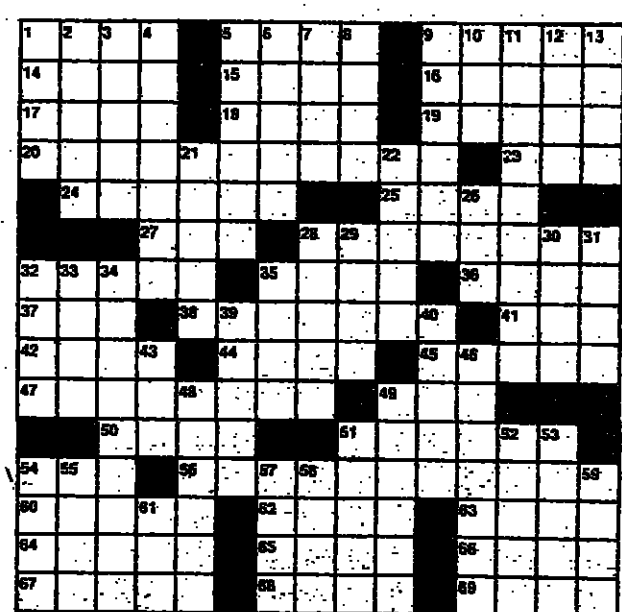
How many tricks you need from the diamond suit depends on how many spade tricks you make. If that suit is going to provide three tricks, you need only three diamonds. But if you are going to score only two spade tricks, you must make four diamond tricks.

So before you play on diamonds you should take the spade finesse. Therefore, you win the first trick in hand and immediately lead a spade to the jack. When that holds, you need only three tricks in diamonds and now you can afford to take the safety play. You cash the king-ace of that suit, and you are suitably rewarded when her majesty the queen falls on the second round.

You have not only won the contract, but also the admiration of the horde of spectators clustered around your table. Congratulations.

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★ CROSSWORD PUZZLE ★



ACROSS

1 Coup d'—
5 Broad valley
8 Leopard
14 Miami's county
15 Latin abbr.
16 Truck type
17 Press
18 Spacer
19 Mural or venous start
20 Eretine Caldwell
23 Fruit of a rose
24 Singers
25 Heredity unit
27 Plaything
28 Pork cut
32 Descriptive grammatically
35 Premed course: abbr.
36 Portend
37 Since
38 Harms
41 In the manner of
42 Spring
44 Find agreeable
45 Viper
47 Common
49 First lady

DOWN

51 Staircase parts
54 Stadium sound
56 Mel Gibson film (with "The")
60 Stagger Hank
62 Superman's girl
63 Volcano
64 Mixes
65 English queen
66 Type of party
67 Brief
68 Visionary
69 Ancient seaport
1 Fortune-telling card
3 Sun-dried brick
4 Renters
5 Discern
6 Friend of Aramis
7 Hideaway
8 St. —'s fire
9 Arachnid
10 Forest god
11 Travelling
12 Actress Garr
13 Rebuff
21 Murremured amorously

22 Marble

26 Beak
28 Sinuous
29 Attendant
30 Intensive
31 NYSE term
32 — Alto
33 Ripener
34 Crosby-Hope film
35 Muslim prince
39 Texas shrine
40 Miser, e.g.
43 Pastry
46 Term of affection
48 German
49 Blackboard accessory
51 String
52 Simple song
53 Detection device
54 Fish
55 Vow
57 Expression of grief
58 Cooked
59 Fury
61 Hockey name

Scrambled word solution

ANSWER: BRAWL, UNCLE FLAUNT MASOCT



Diplomatic Corps

Algerian	641271/2
Austrian	6372467
Austrian Embassy	644635
Bahrain	664148
Belgian	675683
Bulgarian	818151
Canadian	666124
Cyprus Honorary Cons.	823360
Czechoslovakian	677539
Danish Consulate Gen	665105
Finnish Consulate	622324
French	623443
German	641273/4
Greek	689351
Hungarian	672331
Indian	815614
Iraqi	637262
Italian	639331
Japanese	638185
Consulate Gen. Ireland	630878
Yugoslavian	672466/7
Kuwaiti	665107
Libyan	675135/8
Lebanese	666118
Moroccan	641481
Netherlands	637967/625165
Indonesian	828911
North Korean	666349
Norwegian Consulate	637164
Omani	686155
Pakistani	622787
Palestine	677517
People's Rep. of China	666139
Philippines	645161
Polish	637153
Qatari	644331/2
Romanian	667738
Saudi Arabian	814154
South Korean	660745/6
Spanish	622140
Sudanese	644251/2
Swedish	669177/9
Swiss	686416/7
Syrian	641076
Tunisian	674307/8
Turkish	641251
United Arab Emirates	644369
United Kingdom	823100
United States of America	820101
USSR	641158
Yemen	642381
Delegation of the EEC	668191
UNDP	668171/7
UNRWA	669194/8
(Taiwan)	671530
UNICEF	629571
Con. of Sri Lanka	645312
Con. of Iceland	698851

Airlines

Alyemda (Air yemen)	653691
Aeroflot	641510
Air Canada	625355
Air France	666055 / 667824
Air India	688301/2
Air Lanka	682140
Alitalia	625203
American Airlines	669068
Arab Wings	894484
Adria Airways	667029
Austrian Airlines	637980/667028
Balkan Airlines	665909
British Airways	641430
China Airlines	637380
Cathay Pacific	624343
Cyprus Airways	667028
Egypt Air	630011
Emirates Airlines	662141/678321
Gulf Air	653606/656616
Hungarian Airlines	639295
Iberia	637827/644036
Iran Air	622826
Japan Airlines	630879
K.L.M.	622175
Korean Airlines	676624/662236
Libyan Arab Airlines	643831/2
Lufthansa	601744
Malaysian Airlines	639575/653446
M.E.A.	636104
Olympic	630125/638433
PIA	625981
Philippine Airlines	670155
Polish Airlines	625981
Qantas	641430/659467
Royal Jordanian	678321
Sabena Belgian Airlines	675888
Saudia	639333
Scandinavian Airlines	604649
Singapore Airlines	676177
Sudan Airlines	694501
Swiss Air (G.S.A.)	659791/641906
USAIR	694801/2
Syrian Air	622147
TAROM-Romanian	637380
Thai Airways	604649
Trans World Airline	623430
Turkish Airlines	659102
Yemenia Airways	628175
Yugoslav Airlines	604911

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Dial

Algeria	213	Germany W	49	Amsterdam 20		Marbella 52	
Argentina	54	Bonn 288		Rotterdam 10		Majorca 71	
Buenos Aires 1				North Yemen	967	Sri Lanka	94
Australia	61	Athens/Piraeus 1	36	Al Bayda 6		Colombo 1	
Adelaide 8		Budapest 1	91	Hodeidah 3		Sudan	249
Brisbane 7		Bangalore 812		Sanaa 5		Khartoum 11	
Canberra 62		New Delhi 11		Taiz 4		Sweden	46
Melbourne 3		Bombay 22		Nigeria	234	Stockholm 8	
Perth 9				Lagos 1		Syria	963
Sydney 2				Norway	47	Damascus 11	
Austria	43			Oslo 2		Taiwan	886
Vienna 222				Oman	968	Taipei 2	
Bahrain	973			Pakistan	92	Thailand	66
Belgium	32			Karachi 21		Bangkok 2	
Antwerp 3				Lahore 42		Tunisia	216
Brussels 2				Peshawar 521		Tunis 1	
Brazil	55			Rawalpindi/Islamabad 51		Turkey	90
Rio de Janeiro 21				Paraguay	595	Ankara 4	
Brazilia 61				Asuncion 54		Istanbul 1	
Bulgaria	359			Peru	51	Abu Dhabi 2	
Sofia 2				Lima 14		Ajman 6	
Canada	1			Philippines	63	Al Ain 3	
Ottawa 613				Manila 2		Dubai 4	
Chile	56			Poland	48	Fujairah 70	
Santiago 2				Warsaw 22		Ghayath 52	
Cyprus	357			Qatar	974	Ras Al Khaimah 77	
Nicosia 21				Romania	40	Sharjah 6	
Czechoslovakia	42			Bucharest 0		Umm Al Quwain 6	
Prague 2				Saudi Arabia	966	UK	44
Denmark	45			Al-Khobar 3		London (inner 71/outer 81)	
Copenhagen (Inner) 1				Al-Madina 4		Uruguay	598
Copenhagen (Outer) 2				Dammam 3		Montevideo 2	
Ecuador	593			Jeddah 2		USA	1
Quito 2				Mecca 2		New York 212/718	
Egypt	20			Riyadh 1		Washington 202	
Cairo 2				Spain	34	USSR	7
Eire	353			Barcelona 3		Moscow 095	
Dublin 1				Madrid 1		Venezuela	58
Cork 21						Caracas 2	
Finland	358					Yugoslavia	38
Helsinki 0							
France	33						
Paris 1							

IDD Codes, First Dial 00

And all cities with area codes beginning with 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8.

Indonesia	62
Jakarta 21	
Italy	39
Rome 6	
Iraq	964
Baghdad 1	
Japan	81
Tokyo 3	
Kenya	254
Nairobi 2	
Kuwait	965
Korea	82
Seoul 2	
Libya	218
Tripoli 21	
Lebanon	961
Beirut 1	
Malaysia	60
Kuala Lumpur 3	
Mexico	52
Mexico City 5	
Morocco	212
Fez 7	
Rabat 7	
Netherlands	31

Important Numbers

Emergencies	
Amman Governorate	622
Amman Civil Defence	622
Civil Defence Unit	622
Civil Defence Dept	622
Ambulance	622
Amman fire brigade	622
First aid	622
Blood Bank	622
Civil Defence rescue	622
Police rescue	62111
Police headquarters	622
Traffic police	622
Electric Power Co.	622
Water complaints	622
Queen Alia Airport	08 53200
RJ Flight Info	08 53200
Hospitals	
Hussein Medical Center	622
Khaled Maternity	622
Aksh Maternity	622
Jabal Amman Maternity	622
Malhas, J Amman	622
Palestine, Shmeisani	622
Shmeisani Hospital	622
University Hospital	622
Al-Muasher Hospital	622
The Islamic, Abadi	622
Al-Ahli, Abadi	622
Italian-Al-Muasher	622
Al-Bashir, Ashrafieh	622
Army, Marka	622
Queen Alia Hospital	08 53200
Amal Hospital	622
General	
Jordan Television	622
Radio Jordan	622
Ministry of Tourism	622
Hotel complaints	622
Price complaints	622
Telephone Information	622
Jordan and Middle East	622
Repair service	622



Editorial & advertising telephone number: 648298

Distribution: Jordan Distribution Agency, telephone: 630191



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Museums

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. year round. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al-Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 638795.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries, and a collection of paintings by 19th century Orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Weibdeh. Hours 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 630128.

Royal Cultural Centre	6610267	Concord	677420
American Centre Library	641520	Rainbow	625155
British Council	636147/8	Piazza	674111
French Cultural Centre	637009	Philadelphia	634144
Goethe Institute	641993	Nijoum	675571
Soviet Cultural Centre	644203		
Spanish Cultural Centre	634049		
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777		
Haya Arts Centre	665195		
Hussein Youth City	667181/5		
Y.W.C.A.	641793		
Y.W.M.A.	664251		
Amman Mus. Library	637111		
Univ. of Jordan Library	834555		
R. S. C. N.	837931/837937		

Sports Clubs

Al Hussein Sports City	667181
Orthodox Club	810491
Royal Automobile Club	815410
Royal Shooting Club	736572
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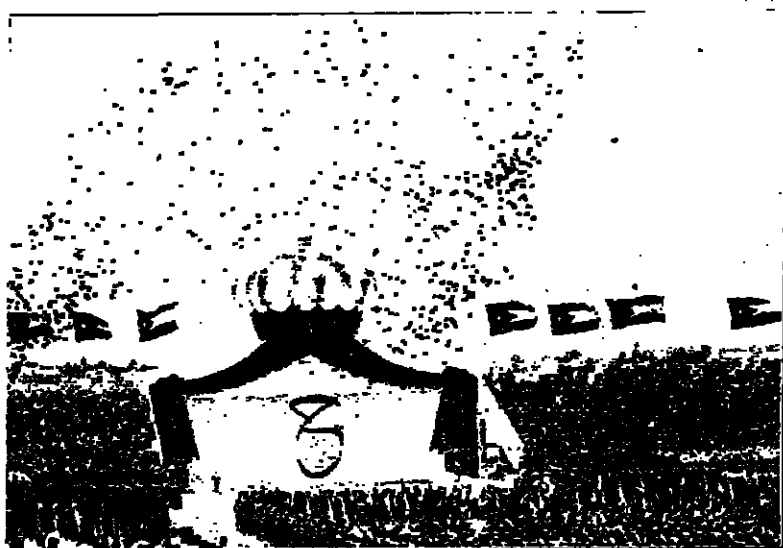
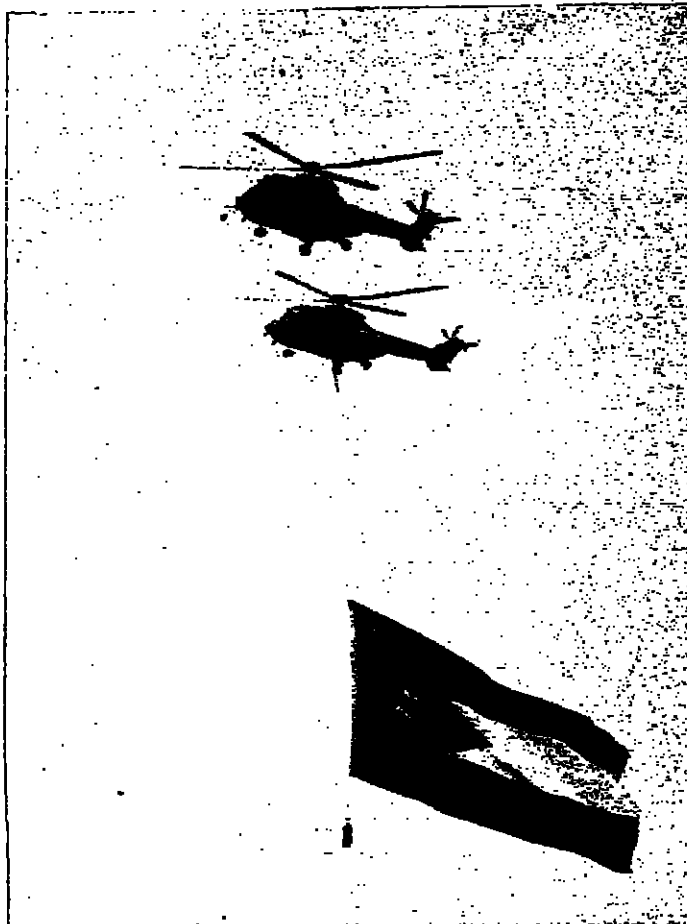
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THE STAR'S WORK COMPUTING & HIGH TECH NO

Revolutionizing office technologies integration: AcerPAC Multimedia PC

EQUIPPING AN office can be a pain-staking job, especially with all the different technologies you will need. You need a PC, fax machine, telephone, radio and you might be considering some forms of entertainment like a CD-player.

Acer, the Taiwanese PC manufacturer, might just provide the answer to your different needs with its "Personal Activity Center" (PAC). The AcerPAC 150+, known in Europe as the AcerPAC 450, is a low cost, multi-purpose, fully featured 486SX system running at 25MHz that integrates the key elements of the MPC standard such as audio, video, text, images and graphics. This is achieved by the practical inclusion of a variety of hardware add-ons within the case of what essentially looks on the outside like a normal multi-media PC.

In the Acer PAC you get several components. The "Music Center" includes a CD player which can play audio and data CDs and an eight-channel stereo mixer that allows professional audio mixing. Then there's the "Telephone Answering Device" which is a built-in answering machine that receives fax transmissions and voice messages. You can play-back and erase messages just like any other answering machine. Another couple of very useful features are StartSmart

which can turn on your machine to take fax messages or phone calls and turns it off again. SaveSmart, another feature, can automatically recall



the data that was on screen when you turned off the computer to display it the next time you turn the computer on.

The AcerPAC comes with a basic configuration of 130MB fixed disk, 4MB RAM and a 1.44MB diskette drive. This pack is the follow up to a 386SX based pack released over a year ago in the US which was a success.

Compared to other MPC packs from other manufacturers, the AcerPAC beats them on additional features and comprehensive on-line documentation in full color which is easily

Computer Companies

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accessible through a click of the mouse. The true art of the whole pack lies in the hardware and software integration making all the components of the pack compatible with one another.

The integration of a phone, fax and radio makes the AcerPAC an ideal home machine. There's lots of software to look at and you can listen to your favourite radio show while you work. And remember that you won't have to worry about running across the room between your fax and computer desk!

Acer are not only aiming this pack at the business user but it is also aimed at the consumer electronics market which brings to mind the important role multi-media packs are expected to play in homes in the near future. If you're considering working within the framework of the "home office" concept, then the AcerPAC should be a sign of the future in that direction. Other manufacturers are putting together similar packs which blend business needs and entertainment into a single machine. Keep an eye open on developments in this field in the near future.

For more information on the AcerPAC you can contact Special Systems Company (SSC), authorised dealers for Acer in Jordan. ■

Arabic support for DOS 6.0 from Microsoft

● DOS 6.0 is Microsoft's latest addition to the DOS series of operating system software which, surprisingly, can give users immediate Arabic support.

This is because Microsoft decided last year to release an Arabic support disk that would be compatible with all future DOS versions. The disk, called "Arabic Language Support for DOS 1.0", was meant to replace the need for the release of a version of DOS 5.0 with Arabic support.

This policy paid off recently when Arabic language users didn't have to wait for an Arabic support disk and could immediately use DOS 6.0 with Arabic applications.

All the features of DOS-support remain intact and functional with DOS 6.0. The user doesn't have to make

any changes to the CONFIG.SYS file and will be able to run the Arabization directly from the command line, and can load the printer display and the mouse drivers together for the whole system or individually for different applications.

The Arabization occupies 34KB in the conventional memory and Zero KB when it runs on 386 or higher based computers being loaded up with Upper Memory blocks (UMBs).

Arabic DOS support can be used with Arabic Windows 3.1 in the Windows enhanced mode and the Arabic DOS applications can be multitasked.

Arabic DOS manager is an Arabic DOS shell which enables the user to manage DOS in Arabic without any knowledge of the English DOS com-

mands.

Arabic support for DOS is compatible with the Arabized DOS display support for EGA and VGA and includes more than 50 printer drivers. It supports the most popular DOS Arabic code pages.

After running the DOS support, the user can press Ctrl-Right Shift for Arabic writing for right to left screen orientation, or Ctrl-Left Shift for writing in Latin for right to left orientation. Pressing Alt instead of Ctrl allows Arabic writing without changing the screen orientation.

An Arabic manual is included in the Arabic DOS support package.

So, if you've got DOS 6 and are still waiting for Arabic support, ask for the "Arabic Language Support for DOS 1.0" from your local Microsoft dealer.

INTERFACE

BY ZEID NASSER

VAT under the mat

AN INTENSE discussion was triggered off last week regarding the customs duty and Value Added Tax on computers.

Dr Ziad Fariz, Minister of Planning, stated that the customs duty on computers was actually meant to be higher; the authorities concerned eventually decided on a grading scale ranging from 11 to 25 percent. This was to support the development of the computer sector in this country.

However, Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr Abdallah Nsour said that, "After trying the customs duty for a period of time, some negative aspects have come to light making it necessary to revise the legislation and maybe even back off from it altogether."

So there are obviously different and almost contradicting views on the customs duty. There is no information, at the moment, on whether or not the cancellation of the customs duty on computers is even being discussed. As for the voices against this tax from within the computer sector, well let's just say there's been little objection. It would seem as if vendors are happy with the tax! This, of course, is an indication that sales have not gone down as a result of the tax and that few customers are complaining. Either that, or prices have gone down on their own.

An opinion falling into this line of argument was sounded by Mr Walid Al Asfar, administrative manager of the Jordan Computer Society (JCS). According to Mr Al Asfar, "the key point here is that computer prices on the international market are continuously decreasing. When these prices start to filter into the Jordanian market, you can expect the prices asked by Jordanian vendors to decrease. All it takes, is one vendor selling a new 486 at the price of a 386 for the rest of the vendors to follow and slash their prices accordingly." This is true owing to the fact that, in spite of the customs duty, computer prices in Jordan have almost remained the same. That is, after a fluctuation period which immediately followed the legislation.

A similar effect can be expected with the Value Added Tax, if implemented. The talk, at the moment, is about whether to go with the 5 percent or 10 percent increase. As for computers, it is still not clear if they will be treated as an exception seeing as computers qualify as an educational product. Anyway, if the VAT goes into effect, you can expect prices to go up initially, decreasing when the effect of lower international prices hits the Jordanian market as explained before. The good news conveyed by Dr Fariz was that the government had recently decided to exempt 50 percent of taxable profits made from exporting software. This measure is aimed at encouraging local companies to export software and compete internationally.

The debate rages on while buyers react quite strangely. Some are rushing to buy computers before the VAT is implemented, thinking that they will save their money by doing so. Others believe that prices are going to come down and that they should wait a while. If you ask me, it's a very tricky situation. But one thing is for sure, the 386 is coming to Jordan soon. That should start a major price-cutting mania all over again! The headaches never stop, do they? ■

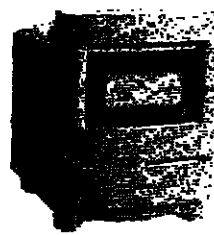


News update

Color Classic takes off in Jordan

● Since it first went on show at the Apple Expo last month, this machine has captured the attention of the Mac-using Jordanian public. You can literally say that the machine is flying off the shelves.

Actually, it's not exactly on the shelves in Jordan yet since Ideal Systems, distributors for Apple Computer in Jordan



don't have any in stock, but can get it on order. Anyway, this initial success of the Color Classic is a direct result of its special low price of JD 1130 at the expo which is now back to JD 1250. Anyway, that's still cheap seeing as Macintosh computers were just too expensive for the average user a few months ago.

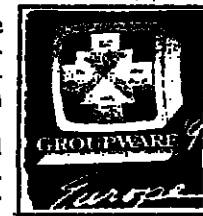
This machine's only major drawback is its tiny 10 inch screen. This display, although being crystal clear, can only provide a resolution 512 x 384 pixels which can accommodate half that of an 800 x 600 SVGA monitor. So its not exactly the ideal machine for desk top publishing. Still, the machine is an excellent entry level Macintosh which should satisfy the dreams of color-hungry Macintosh buyers with a tight budget.

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This conference, under the slogan of "Groupware: What's in it for you?" will be held in Stockholm on 5-6 May, London on 10-11 May and Frankfurt between 13-14 May.



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